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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq, Jordon Agree on Joint Military Units

JN2801145290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] In a new move to bolster military cooperation and coordination, Jordan and Iraq have decided to form "joint military battalions" drawn from the various ground, air, and naval military units, AL-ITTIHAD has learned. These battalions will serve as emergency forces to confront any foreign challenge or threat to either of the two countries. AL-ITTIHAD also learned that the new military organization is based on the formation of selected and special combat units from both the Jordanian and Iraqi Armies. The commanders, assistant commanders, and chiefs of staff of each of these units have already been nominated and appointed, according to the information given. This new formula of military cooperation between the two countries was discussed during Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to Jordan and his bilateral talks with King Husayn.

Tunisia's Ben Ali Appoints AMU Committee Chiefs

LD2601200290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over a mini cabinet meeting at the Presidential Palace in Carthage this morning at which they discussed the necessary means of implementing the resolutions of the first session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Leadership Council which was held in Tunisia. The president ordered that the necessary measures be adopted to ratify the amendments introduced into the AMU treaty.

On the other hand, the head of the state and of the AMU Leadership Council appointed the heads of the four specialized ministerial committees for the duration of Tunisia's chairmanship of the AMU. The appointments were as follows:

Mr Nouri Zorgati, minister of agriculture, as head of the Food Security Committee, which will meet in Morocco next February;
Mr Moncef Belaid, minister of national economy, as head of the Economic and Financial Matters Committee, which will meet in Algeria next March;
Mr Ahmed Friaa, minister of equipment and housing, as head of the Basic Structure Committee, which will meet in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah next March; and
Mr Habib Boulares, minister of culture and information, as head of the Manpower Committee, which will meet in Tunisia next February.

The committees will draw up the plans and time schedules necessary for implementing the resolutions concerning the joint Maghreb actions in their fields.

The president also appointed Mr Chadli Neffati, minister of interior, as Tunisia's representative to the Interior Ministers Council and as chairman of that council during the period of Tunisia's Leadership Council chairmanship. The Interior Ministers Council will meet in Mauritania next March to discuss the freedom of movement among the parts of the Arab Maghreb, the coordination of security among the Maghreb countries, the issue of a single Maghreb identity card, and to draw up a Maghreb plan for dealing with disasters and pest infestation. On the other hand, the Maghreb energy ministers will meet in Tunisia next March within the framework of the specialized ministerial committee entrusted with economic and fiscal affairs.

During the mini cabinet meeting, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali paid special attention to the issues directly effecting the life of the Maghreb citizen, which contributes to the consolidation of the bases of the AMU. The president recommended the AMU begin to implement and act on the recommended issues.

EEC Freeze on Cooperation With Israel Welcomed

LD2501012390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A spokesman for the Arab League General Secretariat announced yesterday in Tunis that the proposal of the European Parliament to freeze scientific cooperation with Israel, and the refusal of the EEC Energy Commission to increase cooperation with Israel represent initiatives which honor the EEC.

The spokesman pointed out that it is unreasonable for the Israeli Government to aspire to obtain scientific and financial aid from another party, especially the EEC, while it continues its arbitrary policies in the occupied territories and destroys the educational and university institutions of the Palestinian people.

Libya To Head Arab Banking Association

LD2401200490 Tripoli JANA in English 1837 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Al-Jamahiriyah was selected as being the secretary general of the Arab Association for Banking, Insurance and Financial Matters personnel. This selection was conducted on concluding the pan-Arab conference of this association yesterday in Tripoli.

This selection has come in for the third time in appreciation of the pioneering role assumed by Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the political and economic levels.

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of Intifadah Call No 51 Issued 22 Jan

JN2301174990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 90

["Text" of Call No 51 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah on 22 January]

[Text] Call, call, call: No voice shall rise above the voice of the intifadah, no voice shall rise above the voice of the Palestinian people, people of the PLO. Call issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI], the PLO. Call No 51. Call of freedom and peace.

O masses of our heroic people: From the midst of curfews and the arena of struggle, where our people are confronting the soldiers of the fascist occupation, armed with their willpower, determination, and bare chests, equipped with faith in the inevitability of victory; and from the cells of interrogation where the ugliest crimes are being committed against the vanguards of our people, we reaffirm our resolve to continue struggle and sacrifice in order to achieve our people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the materialization of the independent state. We reaffirm the need to establish a just, durable, and comprehensive peace through our firm adherence to the brave Palestinian peace initiative to confront the American-Israeli plan which is based on ignoring our people's national, legitimate rights and on circumventing the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people.

Our people have affirmed rejection of attempts to undermine the role of the PLO or to give it an invisible role in the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Our people have also affirmed adherence to the PLO, their unified and legitimate leadership, and to its full right to form and proclaim the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue, rejecting any custodianship on this right. We reassert that no one from inside the occupied homeland will take part in any delegation that is not formed and proclaimed by the PLO. Our people have declared that any dialogue must be based on an open agenda and take place under international supervision serving as a step toward an effective international conference.

The Israeli leadership continues its intransigence and rejection of the appeal of peace which has become the goal of all peoples of the world. This leadership's position is still based on the U.S. Administration's unlimited military, political, economic, and media support. After the failure of the Shamir plan thanks to our people's manifestations of heroism, and after the Baker plan reached a dead end, Shamir is again talking about the illusion of holding unilateral elections and about alternatives to the Baker plan. He is also making statements about a Greater Israel. All this proves that the expansionist Zionist policy is confused and bankrupt.

On this basis, the UNLI urges the world to genuinely explore the reality of the Zionist enemy and its army, intelligence, and other organs that persecute children and women in the villages, camps, and cities of occupied Palestine. These organs are linked in the dirtiest relations with the racist South African regime. These organs have proven connections with drug traffickers. We condemn these relations and denounce America's invasion of Panama. These relations have been exposed by one of these organs' most senior officers as well as their relationship with the drug gangs in Colombia. These organs have even spied on Weizman, who is a member to the Inner Cabinet, the Israeli Government's decisionmaker. How can such a government with such organs propose a just and durable peace? This government cannot but be a danger to world peace and all of humanity.

O militant people: The UNLI welcomes the Soviet Union's decision to upgrade the PLO's office in the Soviet capital, Moscow, to the embassy level. This decision dealt a blow to the U.S. position, which ignores the PLO and which stands against the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. The UNLI believes that this step demonstrates the Soviet Union's principled stand that supports our people's rights to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland through an effective international conference attended by all sides to the conflict, including the PLO on equal footing. In this regard, the UNLI calls on the other states in the world, which have not yet taken such a step, to follow the Soviet Union's example, and calls on these states to pressure Israel to submit to the international will and acknowledge our people's legitimate rights.

The UNLI is surprised by the trend shown by some Eastern European states to restore ties with Israel, and believes that this trend contradicts the slogans of justice and democracy raised by the peoples of these states. How can these regimes establish ties with a regime that occupies the land of another people, practices the ugliest form of oppression against them, and deprives them of the simplest democratic and human rights?

O masses of our steadfast people: While emphasizing the denunciation of the Israeli practices against our people that came in Amnesty International's report, the UNLI invites all friendly and international organizations and representatives of all friendly and international media to visit our occupied Palestinian state to publish the facts about the oppressive practices carried out by the occupation soldiers and settlers against our people.

The UNLI also asks the regime in sisterly Syria to respond to the efforts to rectify the Palestinian-Syrian relationship on the path of restoring full brotherly ties between Syria and the PLO on equal footing for the benefit of the Syrian and Palestinian peoples. This is because the phase in which our people's intifadah is passing and the challenges facing our Arab nation call for the highest degree of coordination and closing of ranks. In this regard, we demand the release of the Palestinian political detainees held in Syrian jails in a gesture of goodwill to strengthen that trend.

Out of its belief in the need to entrench national unity within the framework of the PLO, the UNLI welcomes Khalid al-Fahum's call to the Palestinian National Salvation Front's faction that split from the PLO to return to its ranks on the basis of adhering to the resolutions issued by the 19th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], foremost of which are the declaration of independence and the Palestinian peace initiative, and to the resolutions issued by the PLO Central Council.

O heroes of the giant intifadah: The UNLI congratulates the comrades in the Palestinian Communist Party, one of the PLO's major factions, on the 8th anniversary of its establishment. It also appreciates the party's national and militant role.

O masses of our generous people: While the UNLI stresses the need for continued escalation and development of our people's giant intifadah, it also calls for the following:

The UNLI asserts the importance of adhering to the approach of national, unionist education and the exchange of serious and conscious dialogue, in addition to searching for the points of agreement instead of points of difference in order to completely exterminate any manifestation of narrow-mindedness. It also calls for setting up joint national activities on all national occasions which our people celebrate.

The UNLI calls on the brothers in the Hamas movement to coordinate in order to agree on national activities, including comprehensive strike days.

The Universities and Institutions of Higher Education

The Higher Education Council and the Higher Students' Council are called on to carry out an intensive national, Arab, and international activity in order to secure support of the biggest possible front which can put pressure on the occupation authorities to force them to reopen local universities and higher institutions after 2 years of closure. This will provide our students with the opportunity to practice their right to university education on equal footing with the rest of the students of the world.

With the beginning of a new scholastic year, the UNLI asserts that teachers have to double their academic and educative efforts in order to compensate the students for what they have missed. The UNLI also calls on students to respect and cooperate with teachers, work in order to find points of agreement to establish a dialogue between them and the schools' administrations, and to work for the formation of unified students' committees in order to achieve that end.

The Injured and Pursued

The UNLI lauds and holds in high esteem all the pursued and injured and their families. At the same time, it appeals to the masses of our people to take care of them and provide them with assistance.

Facing Sieges

The UNLI emphasizes the need for foiling Mordekhay's policy which is based on collective punishment and imposition of curfews for lengthy periods on various positions. Foiling this policy can be achieved through the continuation of determined opposition by using all the available means and storing in each house the food products sufficient for periods of no less than 10 days. Here, we underscore the need for the formation of joint health committees to treat the injured and patients, store and distribute medications, and organize sessions for health guidance and first aid.

Supporting Local Agricultural Product

Taking into consideration that the Nabulus market is the major center for marketing agricultural products in our occupied Bank, the UNLI asserts the need for permitting the continuation of unloading consignments and collecting money in this market after official work hours.

Factories and Textile Workhouses in Tulkarm

The UNLI asserts that what applies to productive or national institutions concerning full work for 8 hours also applies to the workhouses and clothes factories in Tulkarm.

Foiling Military Decision No 1,293

The enemy's intention behind the military decision to impose fines on owners of houses whose walls are decorated with national emblems is to devour the sons of our people, one at a time. The UNLI stresses the importance of refusing to pay these fines and the need for a collective and comprehensive effort in case of confrontations. It also calls on the masses of our people to increase the posting of these emblems, enrich their political and military content, and avoid trite slogans. It also stresses the need for the unification of these emblems and signing them with the name of the UNLI in view of the available national unanimity concerning these emblems.

The Strike Forces

The UNLI, while greeting all members of the strike forces, stresses the need to bolster these forces' relationship with the masses by listening to their ideas and creating a mutual atmosphere of love and warmth. In this regard, the UNLI warns our people's masses of the suspect confiscation and use of the citizens' cars by the intelligence organs and agents who pretend to be strike forces and thus harm the good reputation of these forces and their militant role.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA]

The UNLI supports the UNRWA measures against some employees involved in stealing our people's food, as recently revealed. The UNLI calls on the UNRWA to expand its aid program to include the villages under siege.

The UNLI greets the institutions, departments, and persons who document and record the occupation authorities' atrocities and the dates these have occurred, and urges that they redouble their efforts in order to record the details of even minor incidents in all positions of confrontation as well as our people's heroic confrontations in all areas.

Work in the Zionist Settlements

The UNLI emphasizes its former decision to boycott work in the Zionist settlements, particularly those set up to absorb the new immigrants. It also calls on our workers to boycott work in any other projects serving this purpose.

Week of Solidarity With Detainees

In support of our valiant detainees' struggle in the Zionist prisons and detention centers for a better life and in protest against the occupation authorities' inhuman repressive practices against them, the UNLI declares the period 23-30 January 1990 a week of solidarity with the detainees. On this week, demonstrations, rallies, and sit-in strikes will be staged in the Red Cross and Red Crescent headquarters and in front of foreign consulates, and visits to the detainees' families will be organized.

Forestation Week

In confrontation of the colonialist, cancerous Zionist tide, the UNLI declares the first week of February a week for reclaiming, cultivating, and reforesting land, including the mountainous and fallow lands.

Ten February will be a day of distinguished escalation on the occasion of the 8th anniversary marking the foundation of the Palestinian Communist Party.

The days of general strike are:
—31 January, as an expression of our people's cohesion with the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative, and as a confirmation of the PLO's right to form and declare the Palestinian delegation.
—9 February 1990, on the occasion of the beginning of the 27th month of the intifadah and as an expression of our people's determination to continue and escalate the intifadah and in reply to the enemy military leaders' statements on the return to the military option to destroy and crush the intifadah. We stress that our people, who defeated the Zionist military option, will continue to defeat the enemy options, be they political or military, thanks to the 2-year experience of intifadah struggle and the Palestinian peace program with which they are armed.

In the face of the occupation authorities' attempts to re-market Israeli goods by faking their names and sources of production, the UNLI declares the period 12-15 February days of struggle during which the strike forces will pursue anew the promoters of these goods and confiscate the goods.

The UNLI, while calling for the implementation of this program, gives all popular and strike committees and the local national leaders the chance to launch their creative initiatives in resisting the occupiers in cities, villages, and camps, each according to his own circumstances. Let the earth be scorched under the feet of the occupiers and usurpers. We will definitely triumph. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The state of Palestine, the PLO, the Unified National Leadership

Qaddumi, Salah on Soviet Jews' Immigration

Qaddumi Comments

JN2801161890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Tunis, 28 Jan (PETRA)—The Arab ministerial committee for supporting the Palestinian intifadah will begin meetings in Tunis on 5 February. It will resume its work in the international arena to combine efforts and energies to support the intifadah and protect it from the illegitimate practices of the occupation troops in the territories. [passage omitted]

In statements to PETRA in Tunis, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and Palestine's representative in the committee, said the committee's next meeting will mark the beginning of joint Arab action to activate the Palestine question, push forward efforts to convene an international peace conference, and take measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through effective action that will force Israel to respect international laws and charters.

Qaddumi urged all Arab states to give collective political backing to the ministerial committee's efforts and program of activity on various international levels in the near future. He said that in its program the committee will give priority to direct dialogue with the friendly Eastern European countries, particularly the Soviet Union, on a number of important issues. Foremost among them is the question of Jewish immigration and the dangers posed by the continued influx of large numbers of Jewish immigrants from these countries.

He said Israel will absorb those immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such a thing, he said, will block all efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question and will harden Israel's intransigent position against peace.

Qaddumi said that the dialogue is to persuade the Soviet Union to contribute in a number of ways to prevent the waves of immigrants from traveling directly to Israel and, at least, to give them the right to go to the countries of their choice.

Further on Qaddumi's Remarks

NC2901121090 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 29 (AFP)—Arab countries plan to start talks with the Soviet Union and East European states in an effort to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official was quoted on Monday as saying.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) AL-BAYAN

newspaper an eight-member committee of Arab foreign ministers would discuss the issue in Tunis next month.

"The committee will give priority to opening a direct dialogue with our friends in the Soviet Union and East Europe to discuss the emigration of Soviet Jews and the danger of Israeli plans to settle them in the occupied territories," Mr. Qaddumi said. He said the move would be debated by the Arab ministers, who will meet February 5 to promote the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference. Mr. Qaddumi said Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, the PLO and Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi would be on the committee.

Israeli officials have said as many as 100,000 Soviet Jews could emigrate to Israel this year. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir earlier this month raised the possibility that some of them would be settled among Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Salah on Halting Influx

JN2801180490 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Jan 90 p 14

[Text] Tunis—Salah Salah, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau and secretary of the Palestinian National Action Committee in Lebanon, has asserted that the PLO will reassess all the political tactics it has pursued since the Palestine National Council's 19th session. He pointed out that efforts will concentrate on developing and escalating the intifadah, taking further interest in joint Arab action, both popular and official, and the European role, and trying to persuade the Kremlin to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews into the Israeli entity.

In statements to AL-BAYAN, Salah Salah said the Palestinian leaders will meet in Tunis the day after tomorrow, Monday, and that George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will attend the meeting. He said he is optimistic the meeting will yield positive and very important results.

Asked about the immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine, the dangers it entails, and the Palestinian response, Salah Salah said that this type of immigration has historically been the main pillar of Israel's strength, as it provides the human resources for its war machinery. This, he said, helps Israel build settlements and gain highly-qualified military and civilian expertise, especially as the immigrants come from economically- and technologically-advanced countries. He also referred to reports that suggest the majority of immigrants are doctors and engineers, and said this will mean the establishment of new settlements that will lead to the further confiscation of Palestinian lands.

Salah Salah explained that the Soviet Union has not opened the door to emigration out of hostility toward the Palestinian people or in support of the Israeli policy, but that this was due to the new currents brought about by perestroyka and the Helsinki agreement between the Kremlin and the White House. He stated it was natural for the Zionist Movement and Israel to use this state of affairs to their advantage as much as possible.

However, the PFLP Political Bureau member urged Moscow to distinguish between human rights and the Helsinki agreement on the one hand, and the abuse of those freedoms to organize Jewish emigration on the other.

The Palestinian official revealed that the PLO has and still is making efforts with the Kremlin to halt Jewish emigration and to consider the political threat of this emigration, which is part of the Zionist scheme to ursurp Palestine and expell its people. He added that the PLO has received information from some Soviet ambassadors in the region to the effect that Moscow is officially reassessing this issue. However, he urged the PLO and the Soviet Union to treat this issue in a manner that will not harm their alliance, and to deprive Israel of the opportunity to take advantage of differences between them.

Shevardnadze To Contact Israel on Soviet Jews

LD2601204690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1940 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, Jan 26 (KUNA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze has said that the Soviet Union will have contacts with Israel over its decision to rehabilitate Soviet Jews in Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, informed Arab diplomatic sources said here Friday.

The sources who asked not to be named told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that Shevardnadze's remarks were made after the Soviet minister had received the Arab League representative's credentials. But the Soviet minister, according to the sources, did not reveal how the contacts would be made with Tel Aviv in the absence of Israel-Soviet relations.

Shevardnadze has further said that the Israeli step might be confronted through intensifying efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis.

The sources quoted the Soviet minister as saying that Moscow was considering as well persuading Washington to put pressure on Israel to refrain from taking this step which has created anger and strong reactions from Palestinians in the occupied areas.

The Arab League headquarters spelled out concern over the Israeli plans to rehabilitate Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shevardnadze was quoted as saying also that the Israeli plans which had been disclosed by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir were intended for local consumption "as no party can do anything with a third party's territories

on assumptional basis which are expirable by the eventual Israeli pullout from the occupied territories".

PLO Executive Committee Holds Meetings in Tunis

'Arafat Presides Over Meeting

JN2601171290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Tunis last night under brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to discuss the recent developments in the Palestine question. An informed Palestinian source said that during the meeting, the Executive Committee discussed recent developments in the Palestine question and the recent extensive immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine.

Meetings End 26 Jan

JN2601210090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1953 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] This morning, the PLO Executive Committee concluded meetings that began last night in Tunis. The Executive Committee discussed recent developments against the backdrop of the stepped up intifadah, which is facing escalating criminality and oppression perpetrated by Zionist occupation forces against our defenseless Palestinian people. The PLO also discussed recent Palestinian-related developments, including the wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to our occupied Palestinian land and Middle East peace efforts.

AL-BAYAN Reports PLC Diplomatic Reshuffle

JN2801162890 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Jan 90 pp 1, 17

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—The Palestinian leadership announced yesterday the decision to conduct a large-scale diplomatic reshuffle of PLO envoys in Arab and world capitals.

In statements to AL-BAYAN, a senior Palestinian source—who is also a Fatah Central Committee member—said that it has been decided to replace the Palestinian envoy in France, Ibrahim al-Sus; in Kuwait, 'Awni Battash; in Britain, Faysal 'Uwaydah; in Saudi Arabia, Rafiq al-Natshah; and in [East] Germany, 'Isam Kamil. However, the source did not name their replacements.

The source added that Subhi Abu-Karsh, Fatah Central Committee member, will replace Rafiq al-Natshah.

The Palestinian official explained that the decision was not yet official and would only become valid after approval by the PLO Executive Committee.

Bal'awi, Pelletreau Confer on Peace Process

JN2801174290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] On Friday evening, Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunis, discussed with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau the latest developments and efforts to push forward the Middle East peace process. They also discussed the means and possibilities of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

PFLP-GC's Shururu on Lockerbie Crash Stand

JN2801210390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1638 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Interview with Fadl Shururu, secretary of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by the Lebanese newspaper AL-LIWA'; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: Let us begin by asking about Khalid al-Fahum's initiative. Has it been based on something tangible?

Answer: Do not ask me. A question like this should be addressed to him directly. However, regarding the initiative, we in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] have clearly and frankly specified our position. This initiative should consist of two steps, not one, and two phases, not one. The first phase should consist of an invitation to the Palestinian nationalist factions, forces, and figures to discuss the current situation and the previous PLO-led policy which was largely detrimental to the Palestinian people's struggle and cause. The second phase would be to brief the Palestinian masses and forces on the outcome of the national Palestinian dialogue by self-criticism vis-a-vis this phase and the past one. We are not at odds with those making the same call in the Palestinian arena. Even 'Arafat's allies are calling for a critical discussion of the so-called peace offensive. We believe that no initiative should conflict with the means employed. [passage omitted]

Question: How do you explain the Israeli military operations and the U.S. information campaign against the PFLP-GC? What are their precise aims?

Answer: For us, the reasons are clear. It is the fact that the PFLP-GC is one of the organizations opposing the settlement policy. Its opposition to this policy is not theoretical or in word only; it is an opposition to a certain practice concerning occupied Palestine. The enemy knows better than others the quality of the strikes directed at the interior. The reader, the investigator, and the observer notice that we do not announce all of our operations in the occupied territories. We smile when other organizations claim responsibility for these operations. What is important for us is to play our role well. The Zionist enemy can see our fingerprints from the

quality of the operations; its investigation reveals that it is the PFLP-GC carrying out these strikes. It is also aware of our rejection of this trend, this capitulation trend. Therefore, the Israeli enemy directs its blows at the Front. Yesterday our positions in the Lusi area in western al-Biqa' were raided. By these operations, the enemy wants to stifle our opposition to the capitulatory trend, especially since the others even wanted to conclude an unwritten agreement that would end armed struggle one way or another. We continue to carry out our operations inside occupied Palestine, and even outside whenever we are sure that an action can be influential and successful. Therefore, the enemy resorts to strikes. It does not want to see a faction that enjoys strength and credibility and that objects to the capitulatory trend. It wants to break up its structure and foundation so that the call for capitulation can prevail.

Regarding the United States, we believe that its aims converge with those of the Zionist enemy. We asked more than once, and our comrade Abu-Jihad, Ahmad Jibril, has more than once told the Western press and British television that we are ready to comply with any request for an investigation with anyone it names, but only in a neutral country. At the time, he proposed Switzerland. We even said that if they have any proof of the PFLP-GC's involvement in the airliner incident, let them say so and submit this claim to anyone. However, there is no such evidence; it was all preplanned fabrications aimed at undermining the PFLP-GC. Even if they were suspicious, suspicions do not lead to the courtroom. The fact—as I have said—is not one of suspicions or accusations, but a fabricated political issue meant to mobilize international and Arab public opinion in preparation for a major blow against the PFLP-GC, whether through individual assassinations or attacks on bases and camps. The aim is to pressure countries with which we have good relations into believing these accusations. I continue to affirm that these accusations are not based on real facts, cogent proof, or conclusive evidence. This is well known to us. What is regrettable is that some Arab newspapers and news media, both in the Arab world and in the diaspora, are propagating these accusations. A few days ago I was reading the London-based magazine AL-DUSTUR. Regrettably it fabricated a very, very imaginative story.

Question: All the reasons you mentioned are clear and known. But I want to know exactly what is demanded of the PFLP-GC in view of the information campaign against it, and what is your assessment?

Answer: To strike at this organization because if it continues to stand up strongly, the political settlement will not see the light. Not only this organization. If an Arab child, not only Palestinian, continues to say in the farthermost part of this Arab homeland, I will not cede our national and pan-Arab rights to Palestine or elsewhere, no settlement will be peddled and a strike will be required. How, if an organization that has its influential military and political presence inside and outside Palestine, says this publicly! [passage omitted]

Algeria

Gen Bouhadja Replaces Army Chief of Staff Zeroual

NC2601212990 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, Jan 26 (AFP)—General Ali Bouhadja has been named head of the Algerian army and deputy chief of staff in place of General Lamine Zeroual, an authoritative source said here Friday.

The source confirmed a report in the daily EL-MOUDJAHID tucked away into an article on an Algerian military delegation visiting Iraq.

Gen. Zeroual resigned over plans to restructure the 150,000-strong army, informed sources said. Other sources said that he had been politically at odds with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Prime Minister on Legalization of Fundamentalists

LD2201211990 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report, including recorded excerpts, of interview with Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche by RTL and LE MONDE correspondents on 21 January; place not given—Hamrouche remarks recorded throughout]

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche gave a very interesting interview yesterday evening to our colleagues from RTL and LE MONDE in Paris. Mouloud Hamrouche did not give standard replies; as you are going to hear, he acknowledged, first of all, that the Islamic movement has assured an unprecedented dimension in his country:

[Hamrouche] Indeed, this movement has penetrated almost all the gaps in society's defense—young people, mosques, and culture. At that time the government measured its strength, obviously because we are in a battle situation—a battle which is in fact a political one but which does nevertheless remain a struggle. Well, we were faced with a choice: either squarely to enter into a conflict straight away or else we had to manage things intelligently, using other methods, other techniques. And that is what we are doing today. And I can assure you that over the past 2 months we have already recovered some ground.

[Correspondent] Mouloud Hamrouche explained why he preferred to legalize the Islamic Front, which he says is a unique happening in the region.

[Hamrouche] It is true that it is an experiment that is somewhat unique in the Muslim world. It is the first time a state has recognized the fundamentalist movement as a political party. We chose that path because we consider that this is the best way to control this phenomenon, understand it, manage it, and hold discussions with it. Other countries have chosen other paths. The results are there; it is not worth flaunting them ourselves. We think that by bringing the Islamic Front or the Islamicists or the fundamentalists, whatever you call them, to hold discussions on a democratic level, we are sure of our arguments and our means; we are also sure of our people and of the fact that our people will always refuse to get involved in adventures. That is why we chose that path, why we legalized the Islamic Front.

[Correspondent] The Algerian prime minister also announced new reforms. He has already changed the management of enterprises, the status of universities, the communal code—all in order to give more autonomy to local decisionmakers. Today he is announcing an important reform: financial rehabiliation. He no longer wants to see a black market where the dinar is exchanged at a value five times lower than its official value.

[Hamrouche] Within a maximum period of 2 weeks, we are going to promulgate a law on currency and the law will be very harsh. At the same time, it will facilitate foreign investment and currency investment in Algeria. Through this we are planning to defend the national currency, the dinar, and we have signalled that any social or economic policy has first to go through financial rehabilitation and through the dinar's being given a single value. We have signalled this for a long time. It is the government's policy.

Egypt

Mubarak's Speech Marks Police Day 25 Jan

NC2601082090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1047 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to mark Police Day at the Police Academy conference hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My greetings to you and to Egypt on Police Day. You may have noticed that every year I make a point of participating in the celebrations of Police Day. I consider this a day of national celebration for all Egyptians. Every Egyptian family has a member serving in a security-related field. Therefore, the celebration of your day is the celebration of the entire Egyptian family in honor of its sons who defend Egypt's security, preserve its freedoms, its wealth, and its values, and enforce the law at any cost. The entire country is thus involved in this honorable task and committed to the defense of the community and the homeland.

Today we commemorate a memorable day in our history when, 38 years ago, policemen sacrificed their lives for the homeland without hesitation. They died for the soil and dignity of Egypt. They died so that Egypt might live on and be proud of its past and of its place among world nations.

On this same day in 1952, policemen, in a display of unique courage, confronted the well-equipped foreign

occupation forces, and fought to the last drop of blood with nothing more than their personal weapons. They fought a ferocious and one-sided battle in defense of their position—an insignificant police station that had become a symbol of the entire country's defiance of aggression and repression. Through their sacrifice the entire nation made it clear that it would not capitulate or compromise.

This, dear brothers and sisters, was a defiant and proud country; the country that gave birth to the 23 July revolution, the country that gave the poor and oppressed their rights and waged a war on political and social corruption. Our revolution was the inspiration to many oppressed nations in their later struggles.

This is your country, the country that fought the October 1973 war and the valiant armed forces of which made military history with the Suez Canal crossing. [applause]

Ours is a country that seeks peace from the position of victory, strength, and dignity; a country that has restored every inch of its land and flown its flag throughout its territories; a country that takes pride in the freedom of its citizens and its decisionmaking. Egypt believes in true democracy and constitutional institutions and in the freedom of expression. We aspire for a a healthy political life that avoids the mistakes of the past and meets the challenges of the future.

This is Egypt, where the judiciary is independent and where judgment is fair. This is Egypt, which is the beacon of this part of the world, its pulsating heart, and the fluttering flag of the Arab nation. Egypt holds an elevated position in the Islamic and African worlds, and in all parts of the Third World. It carries the banner in all matters of destiny. This is Egypt which confronts the worst economic difficulties facing a developing state with all its will, determination, and resolution. It is our destiny to work day and night and to exert ceaseless efforts firmly and resolutely, so that we may continue the construction struggle to ease the burdens of those on low incomes. This is a harsh and bitter struggle demanding hard work and enormous sacrifices by all the sons of Egypt. The security mission is an indivisible part of the struggle for economic, social, and political construction. Thus, the security men are carrying out their responsibilities fully aware of the requirements of this construction and also aware of their role in defending it against those who scheme in the dark, break the law, and rebel against the values of the society and its components, or who seek illegal gains even if at the expense of destroying the youth of this nation who are its hope for building the present and the future.

This is primarily a national responsibility. It is a national responsibility serving the people's security and safety and deterring any aggression against freedoms and sanctities. We all, regardless of our position in the regime's constitutional, executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, are defenders of the Constitution and the law and we are at the service of the people. [applause]

With this concept of the policemen's national and professional responsibilities, I address the following remarks to you:

1. Police work is one of those public duties which are very closely connected with the daily interests of the masses. The police frequently serve as rescue and aid squads. The policeman deals with good and bad men. Therefore, we always call for proper methods which achieve the desired response, maintain sound relations, strengthen confidence, ensure the supremacy of the law, safeguard rights, and preserve dignity. If we say that the policeman is a servant of the people, then I appeal to the sons of the people to fully cooperate with the police. The success of the security forces largely depends on this reciprocal cooperation in resisting deviation and in not remaining silent about offenses.

Safety and security are a shield for the entire society and an umbrella of care and protection for every family and citizen and every work field. Therefore, citizens' security awareness helps a policeman perform his duties. The primary aspect of such security awareness is the citizen's concern to respect the law and help the police apply it. In advanced countries, concern for the law prompts a citizen to draw attention to anyone who breaks the law. It is impossible for any country, however great its resources, to deploy policemen on every inch of its territory.

2. The problem of drugs poses the most serious threat to the construction and progress of society. Drugs are a lethal poison that eats away at the flesh of the nation, destroys the young, turns its victims into thieves and killers, and ruins their values and principles. In addition, they have a serious effect in subverting the national economy. There is no doubt that the security departments have exerted notable efforts in the past few years in pursuing bands of drug smugglers, who are devoid of any values or virtue and have been active on the international level, running a large network of dealers and backed by huge resources. Undoubtedly, the issue requires constant vigilance to safeguard our society from this peril. Criminal punishment was intensified in the recent amendment to the law, reaching a maximum, but this does not dispose of the need for vigilant pursuit. This is primarily the responsibility of the police. In addition, it does not negate the need for the role of the family, schools, universities, clubs, and the media. All efforts must be concerted to confront this malady to which our sons are being exposed at a time when we are in the most pressing need of their efforts, work, and vigilance.

In this respect, I am happy to praise the great stand taken by many policmen and border guards who have refused considerable material temptations, insisting on doing their duty whatever the dangers and challenges. [applause]

3. Terrorist extremism is a danger that threatens society's foundations and stability. It is a bloody call to

darkness and backwardness that has no connection with religion. Nor does it have roots in Egypt's history and civilization, or in its values and traditions which have stood as a shield against perils and ordeals through the ages.

The protection of people from terrorism is a protection of the right to life in a believing society that holds life and liberty as sacred. The vigilant confrontation of the tyrannical forces of terrorism is a prop for economic and social progress in a state with a multiparty system that is based on freedom of expression, on respect for sanctities and creeds under the aegis of the law and an independent judiciary, and on guaranteeing the security of every citizen in his workplace, home, and place of worship.

I hardly need to say that the denunciation of terrorism and the call to resist it and confront its perils must be the primary principle governing the objectives and political and social activity of all political parties. It must also be the primary principle in the activity of all democratic groups and the ideas advocated by all writers. With respect to this issue, there must be no maneuvering or deceit nor any manipulation of stands, statements, and slogans. It is clear what is right and what is wrong. The naked eye can distinguish between light and darkness. Resisting terrorism with thought and word in the atmosphere of liberty and democracy in which we live will not be done by a passing statement or through silence.

I do not know why the loud voices, which vie with eath other in speaking of democracy and do not grow weary of parading themselves on frequent occasions, grow so quiet that they become almost inaudible when they speak of terrorist extremism. What is amazing is that these voices certainly know, or must know, that they will be the first victims of terrorism if it finds an opportunity to attack. I repeat: They will be the first victims of terrorism if it finds an opportunity to attack.

If we ask the ordinary citizen to cooperate with the police in carrying out their duty with regard to our daily routine affairs, then it is more fitting that the performance of political parties in protecting society from terrorism should consist of positive acts that have advocates and goals.

Brothers, democracy is manifested by conscientious exercise and positive activity in favor of the whole homeland, not by someone revolving around himself in a circle much smaller than national responsibility and affiliation. The great role which the security authorities are playing in confronting terrorism and in fighting crime and criminals aims at protecting a homeland and not a regime or a certain party.

Democracy, supremacy of the law, and respect for human rights are the regime's mainstays. These mainstays reject any excesses by those who wield power. However, under the constitutional system all those engaged in politics have a great responsibility to practice democracy in a positive and constructive way. They must clearly, honestly, and actively participate in confronting terrorism's poisonous ideology and its efforts to subvert all aspects of our life.

I say this, brothers, because I have full faith in the patriotism of all those engaged in politics. I am confident that their hearts and acts are full of love for Egypt. We have completely bypassed the troubles of the early stages of democracy and have embarked on building full democracy.

The democratic process began when the one political organization system was peacefully and constitutionally transformed into a multi-party system. Democracy then faced obstacles which we all know. Fate dictated that I took office while the obstacles still existed. Thanks to God and to the people, the process of building democracy surmounted several obstacles. The pillars of democracy became strong, the exercise of democracy prospered, and freedom of expression throve in a free and unrestricted press. Party life became a genuine and lively fact.

Praise be to God, what has happened in this regard is a radical and firm transformation that is proceeding toward perfection. Those holding key political posts, both majority and minority, in the government and the opposition should view the situation as it is and be frank in order to add to our genuine democratic edifice and boost its effectiveness within the framework of national affiliation.

Hence, the people have a right to wonder why certain writers make undue comparisons between what is taking place in East European countries and our contemporary Egyptian situation. I find no reason for further elaboration on this subject because the facts are crystal clear to our enlightened masses. I have emphasized on several occasions that the press is primarily a national responsibility and a patriotic message rather than a party means to achieve personal goals.

Brothers: I am addressing the people, on the day of safety and security, from a position of responsibility with which the people, with all their sects, segments, and parties, have honored me. I have shouldered its heavy burdens in my first and second terms in office. I am not speaking about the responsibilities of political organizations and parties from a position of trusteeship. This is unacceptable to democracy, which I fully believe to be the course of life for the people and the homeland. I am speaking from my constitutional position, which enables me to see a full picture of all aspects of our crushing and accumulated problems, the roots of some of which go back around 70 years. I am speaking candidly, honestly, and straightforwardly, calling for your attention and exhorting you as Egyptian citizens, first and foremost and before any other consideration. My fate has destined that I bear the burden of steering the ship toward safety at the most difficult and demanding stage that could face a people who want to build and to make up for most of what they have so far missed. These are enormous

burdens and concerns. Out of respect for the trust with which the people honored me and in appreciation of the responsibility with which the masses freely entrusted me, I promise that national and human conscience will be my judge, that telling the facts to the people without embellishment will be my course of action, that honesty in government will be the primary unwritten constitution, and that national unity will be the fence and course of action.

With this conviction, I have always called for a joining of efforts and concerted national action in defining our priorities in order to attain our national objectives and assiduously seek to achieve a dignified and happy life for our people. The spheres of national contribution are open to all. The problems are extensive enough to absorb all efforts and proposed solutions. The society of reawakening and achievement is opening all doors to those who want to do constructive work. The fields of national action are vast and unrestricted. Those who want to take the risk of seeking to obstruct construction or maneuver in order to distort, to shirk responsibility, and to seize improper opportunities voluntarily isolate themselves from the masses, from their work, and their interests. Such people are in conflict with the concerns and priorities of the masses, and abandon the masses' honesty and vocation.

Our steps continuously forge ahead firmly and confidently. We work and build with integrity. We openly and steadfastly confront every problem without evasion or excuses, without wasting time with trivialities, or exerting efforts in areas other than the proper ones. We also do not abandon a task entrusted to us which requires unremitting efforts and a firm, undeceptive resolution on our part. We have relinquished easy statements, laid aside deceptive slogans, and refused to be hypocritical with the masses. We have chosen the way of difficult work, arduous effort, and complete openness for the sake of God and the people. We show no ingratitude to any citizen, whether he has a position of official responsibility or not. We show no ingratitude for any work he has done for the good of this homeland or any contribution he has made in the course of his national duty. We are always committed to the principle that performance of duty and the contribution of efforts must fall within the scope of national unity. We adhere to the principle that Egypt belongs to all Egyptians, and that a difference of views should not turn into enmity, but must be regarded as a human effort that is liable to be right or wrong.

We have advanced on the path of construction and the provision of equal opportunities, and have made new endeavors in all spheres of work despite cruel economic difficulties. Our will has not bent before the calls of despair and discouragement because the will to work with integrity, honesty, and honor is much stronger than those who scatter thorns on the wide path before us.

In all areas of work, there have been splendid and bright examples of Egyptian minds, and youths that have been an embodiment of success, have inspired hope, and have promised a happier future. New industries have appeared, numerous new areas of production have been created in all parts of Egypt, and the slogan "made in Egypt" has become reality. The sound of machines has reverberated in the new towns, arid sands have turned into land of good crops, and roads and electricity have reached remote areas.

There are huge Egyptian and Arab tourist investments in Sinai and the Red Sea areas, and other places. We have begun to manufacture power plants, factory machinery, and many other things. The people are following reports on these developments of work and production that are not mere empty shouts and slogans. [applause]

All this is being done at a time when we are confronting the problems caused by the population increase, commodity price rises in international markets, and the complexity of international economic relations. The wheels must turn. There must be a solution for every problem. Tomorrow will be a better day, by any reckoning.

Production facilities do not belong to one group at the expense of another. Through these facilities seek, with all the efforts we can muster, to ease the burdens of Egyptian citizens with limited incomes and to provide a dignified life for Egyptian families. All this is also being done while we are surrounded with friends and brothers in every land around us. Egypt's democratic system, its productive and economic efforts, and its effective and positive role in seeking peace enjoy the respect and appreciation of all Eastern and Western forces in the world.

Brothers, this is the struggle of men. Egypt's wealth lies in its men. This is the role of honorable people. Egypt is full of honorable people. These are the banners of national belonging. Those who do not belong to their homeland do not belong to themselves. Egypt has been the light of belonging throughout history in the spheres of religion, faith, and civilization. [applause]

On Police Day, the day of security and safety, we look with trust and security to the dawn of every new day. Our family is well bound together. Our generations are firmly cohesive. Our struggle with our utmost efforts for the sake of our present and future proceeds on a path of light. Its progress is that of the people of faith in work, dignity, and respect for human rights.

I ask God Almighty to guide our steps in the progress of work and inspire our hearts with the faith of pious people. Victory comes only from God. May God grant you and us success. Peace and mercy of God be upon you. [applause]

Interior Minister Musa's Police Day Speech

NC2601115090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1028 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Speech by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa delivered at the Police Academy's conference hall in Cairo on the occasion of Police Day—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mr President, brothers, and sons: Police Day is celebrated on 25 January every year. On this day we recall memories, review stands, and link near and distant great acts of heroism with great existing and future responsibilities. This day has changed from a glorious event and taken on a broad and comprehensive meaning and significance that promotes the spirit of contribution and sacrifice and takes the members of the police force to the highest levels of responsibility and duty.

We are aware of the nature of conditions which have allied themselves against our country at a delicate time which is witnessing profound political changes, serious social challenges, and difficult and complex economic problems. Within the framework of these conditions, police responsibilities go beyond the narrow concept of crime and criminal activities. They are profoundly linked with the interests of the people in their daily lives and their political concerns. These responsibilities spread to every inch of this land, contributing to every effort and [words indistinct] the various political, executive, and popular institutions in the arena of national action.

Allow me briefly to outline the main principles which govern the policies of the Interior Ministry. This might help to bring minds closer and integrate efforts to confront the urgent responsibilities and tasks awaiting us.

1. The forces which constitute our national system, with all their institutions, groupings, and affiliations, uphold the most honorable goals and are the most sincere in their loyalty to their homeland and in their faith in its just right to freedom, security, and progress. Let us agree on what must be agreed upon, and let us differ on whatever might be the subject of difference. But the position of institutions and the dignity of individuals should not be undermined. Their patriotism does not need judgment. [applause]

2. Stability in our present situation is a basic necessity to ensure the process of democracy and help in the efforts for construction and development. The existing security challenges do not permit even a slight degree of negligence in maintaining security and defense and in dealing with problems. Therefore, those who expect a change in the security policies of the Interior Ministry are right if they mean greater vigilence, resolution, effectiveness, and control.

3. The effort to provide security and the enthusiasm to implement the laws must not lead us to violate these laws, because the policeman will then be contradicting himself and clashing with the essence of his responsibility. To be more specific, respect of human rights, as guaranteed by the laws and pacts, is an absolute rule which has no exceptions, even in the case of the prisoner whose crime has been confirmed and who has to be punished. In his case, we respect his dignity and humanity.

4. We agree that the emergency law must be used only when there is a compelling necessity and its use must match the degree of this necessity. But we disagree with those who demand that the law be abolished, because of the existing security challenges. It is illogical to restrict the action of the police as they wage the harshest and fiercest battles and to provide a bigger chance for criminal and evil elements to undermine legitimacy and stability. We agree that it is unjust to punish the innocent. But we add that it is not in the public interest for the criminal to get away.

5. Practical experience has taught us that mutual persuasion is the best method to end extremist ideas. Therefore, we welcome and support the positive activity launched by the religious, information, and educational institutions to conduct a discussion and dialogue with the various trends in order to correct and guide them. While we firmly believe that wrong thoughts must be confronted with enlightened thoughts, all the parties must understand that a wrong thought, if applied and put into practice, will be tackled with complete firmness.

There is one more thing to say regarding what we hear and read. The freedom of opinion and speech is sometimes used as a screen from behind which to incite and cast doubt and to exploit the troubles of the peoples in order to make them violate legitimacy and order. We do not claim to be the custodians of democracy. We define its limits and process. But we cannot disregard our responsibility to prevent crime before it occurs and to apply the laws which punish the inciters to crime.

Mr President, brothers, and sons. As we live through this great time, with its great hopes and responsibilities, we declare to the Egyptian people our absolute commitment to our mission to free the people from fear, to cleanse life of any exploitation, to raise the banner of legitimacy, and to promote adherence to the supremacy of the law. We commit ourselves to providing security for every citizen, his property, and his honor. We will combat crime in its various forms by preventing it and by applying preventive concepts for the individual and society. We commit ourselves to combating the drugs phenomenon. We will mobilize our best resources in this war against drugs, as if it were our only duty. [passage omitted]

Mr President, we extend our unlimited gratitude to you. We pledge God to keep the police force in the heart and conscience of society, strong in faith and loyalty, capable and full of determination, committed to principles and goals, not disavowing any right or retreating from any duty. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Musa Issues Orders on Arrests

JN2701163290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[By Majdi Hilmi and Ahmad Jubayli]

[Excerpt] Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, interior minister, has issued strict orders to state security investigation officers that they exercise proper restraint when apprehending suspects and that they should take care not to offend their relatives. The minister ordered that apprehended suspects be put in detention promptly and that custody must not be unduly prolonged.

The past 3 days have seen a sweep of arrests of members of the Islamic group in certain governorates of the Republic. In al-Fayyum, over 60 persons were rounded up. Last Friday [19 January] and Sunday, security forces cordoned off the al-Shuhada' mosque and arrested 24 persons from the 'Ayn Shams area, following last Wednesday's [24 January] meeting when the Islamic group threatened to regain control of the Adam mosque by force. They have been referred to state security prosecution, which has opened an investigation. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Interviewed on Policies

PM1901121990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Siham 'Abd-al-'Al on 13 January in Cairo]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Al] Do you intend to change the Interior Ministry's policy on the basis of your past experience?

[Musa] I do not believe that the policy of any ministry should be linked to any individual. The policy is consistent. Our task as the Interior Ministry is to provide security and stability for the people wherever they may be on Egyptian territory under Egyptian sky. That is the duty of the Interior Ministry. A consistent policy is undoubtedly a better and more effective policy. There could be some change in the execution of the policy and in the method of implementation. Perhaps you noticed, a few moments before this interview began, how I stressed to my sons, brothers, and colleagues, the officers, that we must all join hands in the discharge of our duties and fear God in this land.

['Abd-al-'Al] We would like to hear from you, however, what method you intend to use in tackling certain security issues.

[Musa] That is a matter of state policy. Under no circumstances will we bother anyone who abides by the law, but those who undermine and violate the law will be dealt with in accordance with the law and legitimacy.

['Abd-al-'Al] Each interior minister has his own way of dealing with the religious groups. You are known as a believer in freedom of dialogue and you have applied that successfully in the Asyut Governorate. Will you maintain that policy?

[Musa] I always say that I believe in freedom of dialogue within the framework of law and legitimacy. I want to emphasize here that I am committed to state policy which believes in the rule of law. Regarding those who call themselves religious groups, I say that if they preach religion while being committed to a sound course without extremism and fanaticism and without undermining security, then they are welcome; but if they contravene the teachings of our scholars and 'ulema who preach good behavior, then we will confront them with the law. We will allow no violation of security. We welcome the ideal method of preaching religion but we reject violence and extremism, which Islam detests.

['Abd-al-'Al] How will you tackle the problem of drug addiction and narcotics?

[Musa] It will be a relentless war. Anyone who brings in, trades in, or uses drugs, apart from destroying himself, is actually subverting and weakening a healthy, strong, Muslim society. It will be war against these people. I hope God will help me in doing what I think should be done to destroy that disease. It is no exaggeration to say that I was the first to call, in 1986, for a more severe penalty against these people.

['Abd-al-'Al] We would like to know something from you about the first decision to be issued by new Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa regarding the Interior Ministry's policy.

[Musa] Work through understanding and harmony. That is my most important objective. It is our duty and we must perform it. We are not just filling posts. Thank God, there is no grudge in my heart against anyone.

['Abd-al-'Al] What about the political detainees?

[Musa] We will enforce the law in the sense that if a court orders the release of someone then we must all honor that order.

['Abd-al-'Al] Will the policy of arresting anyone who trades in currency continue?

[Musa] The arrest decision applies only to those who really deal in currency because that is detrimental to the country in the present circumstances in relation to the World Bank and the IMF. No religion, ethics, or patriotism allows any group to indulge in profiteering at the expense of the public through currency dealings. I will not leave these people alone. I will be most firm with them in the interest of the economy and the homeland which we all share under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. I have said I am a professional security man. I therefore believe we will have no time to waste or to play and we cannot neglect development for which the president is working. We will all work

for development. Without doubt, there can be no development without security and stability.

['Abd-al-'Al] Let us go back to the issue of those who exploit people's livelihood and the black marketeers.

[Musa] Rest assured, I will not allow anyone to manipulate the people's livelihood. I will allow no black market dealings in any way. I will strike with an iron fist at anyone who tries to manipulate. Politically, we welcome everything that is legal and warn against everything that is not.

['Abd-al-'Al] What were your initial instructions to the security commands you have met with?

[Musa] The security commands know my policy. I am no stranger to them. I am one of them. They are my colleagues and they know my views. My security policy can summed up in commitment to the law with a sense of belonging, fear of God, and sacrifice without reward. Anyone willing to go along with this is welcome.

Police Shoot 'Extremist' in 'Ayn Shams

JN2801144490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Jan 90 p 14

[Text] Ahmad Kamil Ahmad Jum'ah, a member of the extremist groups, was killed in his home in 'Ayn Shams early yesterday morning when security forces tried to arrest him. He opened fire on them with a hand gun in his possession and managed to wound one of them with a pocket knife. This prompted the police to respond by fatally shooting him.

AFP Details Shooting

NC2701100490 Paris AFP in English 0947 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (AFP)—Police shot dead an Islamic militant here in the second bloody confrontation between Egyptian security forces and Moslem fundamentalists in five days, the government daily AL-AHRAM said Saturday.

Police tried to arrest Ahmad Kamil Ahmad Jum'ah in the northern 'Ayn Shams suburb Friday [26 January] but the militant, a member of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, opened fire, the paper said. The police, responding, shot him dead.

Al-Jama'ah Al-Islamiyah told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr. Jum'ah had been killed "as a martyr" as he fled from police trying to detain him.

The newspaper did not specify the charges against the militant, but his group said he had been freed from prison six weeks ago after having been detained for 18 months under the former interior minister Zaki Badr.

Mr. Jum'ah was the second fundamentalist shot dead by police this week.

On Monday, Muhammad al-'Arini, head of a small fundamentalist group in the southern city of Asyut, was killed by police who, according to the official media, opened fire to disperse demonstrators attacking them with rocks.

It was the first such incident since Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, a former governor of Asyut, a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism, was appointed to replace General Badr on January 12.

'Ayn Shams was the scene of violent clashes between police and Islamic militants in late 1988 after the murder of a police officer there and a subsequent crackdown ordered by Gen. Badr.

Three militants accused of responsibility for the officer's death were shot dead by police as they were being arrested.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo for Talks, Conference

JN2601205690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1951 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on an official visit of several days to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He will have talks with President Mubarak and other top Egyptian officials on the latest Palestinian developments. Abu 'Ammar is also to attend a political conference organized by the Egyptian National Committee to mark the advent of the third year of our popular intifadah. Beginning tomorrow, Saturday, the conference will be attended by party chiefs and leaders of various political forces in Egypt.

MENA Reports Arrival

NC2701123590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Cairo that will last a few days. During his stay he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. 'Arafat is accompanied by a high-level delegation that comprises PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani, Mahmud 'Abbas, and 'Abdallah Hurani.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador to Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, received the Palestinian president upon his arrival.

Addresses Ceremony With Mubarak

NC2701221290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today asserted that the Egyptian people, government, and leadership will continue their support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights and occupied land. He

said that the intifadah brought the Arab-Israeli conflict to a new and serious stage. He pointed out that the issue has been again placed at the forefront of the regioal and international arena. This was contained in a statement that President Mubarak addressed to a celebration marking the day of solidarity with the Palestinian intifadah, organized by the Egyptian intifadah support committee, held at Sayyid Darwish hall in al-Haram. The statement was delivered on behalf of President Mubarak by Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Arab affairs committee in the National Democratic Party.

President Mubarak said that the most important premise of Egyptian policy on the Palestinian issue is justice of this cause. He said that the Egyptian position on this issue is unshakeable. He noted that Israel is wrong to believe that the Palestinian issue can be settled without the PLO.

'Arafat gave a speech at the ceremony. He said that Egypt offered 86,000 martyrs from all Egyptian villages for the Palestinian cause. He said that the uprising will continue until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem. He noted that the peace initiative was launched from a position of strength and not weakness. He pointed out that the intifadah has produced 10,000 martyrs, 56,000 injured, and 66,000 prisoners.

The ceremony was attended by Egyptian party leaders, Dr Usamah al-Baz, and the Arab ambassadors in Cairo.

Meets With Mubarak 28 Jan

NC2801104390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held an expanded round of talks following a tete-a-tete meeting this morning that lasted 45 minutes.

The expanded round of talks was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqqi, the president's secretary for information and follow up. Palestinians attending were PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani, Mahmud 'Abbas, and 'Abdallah Hurani; Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Urges USSR To Stop Israeli Flights

LD2801191890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has urged the Soviet Union to not allow direct flights carrying Soviet Jews from Moscow to Tel Aviv. He is of the opinion that these direct flights force Soviet Jews bent on leaving the Soviet Union to go to Israel.

Brother Abu-'Ammar was speaking at a rally held in solidarity with the intifadah in Cairo. He warned the Arab states against the dangers of intensive emigration of Soviet Jewry, saying that not only the occupied territories, but other Arab lands would be necessary for them.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the United States, which had reviewed and reduced its assistance to UNRWA, had given Israel 600 million dollars to resettle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. On the other hand, brother Abu-'Ammar accused the United States of adopting the same position as Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, underlining that it was the first time that it has wanted to allow a country to nominate the delegation members of its adversary to peace negotiations.

Leaves Cairo 28 Jan

NC2801181890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1744 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Cairo this evening at the end of a 2-day visit during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the developments in the Palestinian issue and the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah Movement representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Iraqi President Arrives in Cairo for Visit

NC2801115290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Egypt. He was received at the airport by President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak on Talks With Saddam

NC2801135490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Following his meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this afternoon, President Husni Mubarak stated: We visited in order to exchange views on all issues and developments in the world.

The talk session, which took place at the al-Qubbah Palace, lasted 90 minutes.

Says U.S Behind Soviet Immigration

NC2901123590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited the Cairo International Conference today.

In remarks to journalists after their visit, President Mubarak said that the issue of the Iraq-Iran war was at the top of the list of topics he discussed with the Iraqi president yesterday and today. Mubarak said that they also discussed issues of interest to the whole Arab nation.

President Mubarak said: President Saddam Husayn and I discussed several issues, especially the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, and exchanged views on them. He added: We always exchange views on these issues and emerge with conclusions or approaches we consider beneficial for the Arab nation.

Regarding recent global changes and their impact on the Arab situation, President Mubarak said: These changes definitely influence the Arab situation. We in Egypt have noted this. I agree with Brother Saddam and other Arab leaders that we must be aware of these changes and study their impact. We as an Arab nation must sit together to discuss our future and define our position in the world before it is too late and before we end up the biggest losers.

Answering a question on Jewish immigration from the USSR and Eastern Europe to Israel, which is intended to displace the Palestinians and settle Jews in their place, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said: This issue involves distinct harm to the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

The Iraqi president added: We consider the United States to be a contributor to this immigration, thanks to its policy which no longer opens the door of immigration for Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

He said: The U.S. instructions are clear and prevent the immigrants from settling in the United States. He added: When I asked an American about this, he answered that the United States cannot absorb such a large number of Jews. Of course, this is a feeble excuse. If the United States prevented other nationals from settling in the United States, we would say this is a general measure. However, when the United States allows everyone to immigrate except Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, this means it is opening one door for them—Israel. Such immigration will strengthen the enemy's tendency for aggression and expansion. There is danger that such immigration will increase the power of the fanatics in Israel and give them the idea that they can depend on expansion and aggression instead of searching for peace.

President Saddam was asked whether it would be necessary to hold an Arab summit in the near future to discuss the serious implications of the migration of eastern Jews to Israel. He said that any Arab summit, regardless of when and where it is held, is supposed to look into more than one issue, for no single issue can be seen as isolated from what is going on in the world. Discussions at Arab summits, he added, tackle national and international issues in general, and naturally an issue like this will be given priority.

Asked if he and President Mubarak agree on the need to formulate an Arab economic strategy to deal with the large economic entities that exist in today's world, President Saddam said: My brother President Husni Mubarak views today's world as involving interaction among large entities seeking to promote their higher interests. It is natural that I share his views in this respect. We both believe that the evolving interests in the international arena may pose a threat to the Arabs if pursued at their expense. Therefore, the Arabs should be aware of the situation. President Saddam concluded by urging the Arab leaders to cooperate in defining and promoting the interests of their nations and wished them success in this task.

Concludes Visit, Departs Cairo

NC2901123790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1153 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn left Cairo for Baghdad this morning after a 2-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off by President Husni Mubarak.

Libya

Cultural Cooperation Talks Begin in Moscow

LD2401162190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The first round of talks between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union on information and culture began in Moscow yesterday evening [23 January]. The talks aim at signing a program for 1990-91 for implementing the cultural agreement signed between the two friendly countries in 1975.

The project submitted by the Great Jamahiriyah adopted the program as a basis for discussion and enrichment. The project envisions the development of existing cooperation between the various establishments and the intellectual, information, and cultural sectors in the two countries in a way which will match common interests. [passage omitted]

Talks Continue

LD2701165090 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, Ay-annar [25 January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The informational-cultural (?talks between the) Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union were resumed in Moscow yesterday.

The participants in the talks finished discussing the items of the project presented by Great Jamahiriyah and the executive programme for cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries for the years 1990-1991.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 26 Jan

LD2601173190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jan (JANA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening. He was welcomed on arrival by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee.

Departs After Visit

LD2701103390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jan (JANA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli last night at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

SPLA Reports Umm Dawrayn Garrison Captured

EA2701152390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The forces of the New Cush have captured the garrison of Umm Dawrayn, the capital of Umm Dawrayn District, on 23 January 1990. By the fall of Umm Dawrayn garrison, the whole of Umm Dawrayn District is in full control of SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army].

The capturing of Umm Dawrayn was conducted by Meroe task force under Captain Awad Kuku, Volcano task force under Captain Yunus Abu Sadr, Ajabna task force under Captain Kulang Mayen Kulang, and (?Al-Ihener) task force under Captain Telephone Kuku, and overall command of Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki.

SPLA To Allow Juba Evacuation 29 Jan

EA2701153290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Following the SPLA's [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] public announcement on Thursday, 18th instant, appealing to the population of Juba to evacuate the town so that they are not caught in a cross-fire, a number of foreign countries, specifically the USA and the UK and agencies such as the UN and the ICRC, have contacted the movement so that they are allowed to airlift their subjects and/or personnels out of Juba. A meeting was held in Addis Ababa on Friday, 26th instant, between the representatives of these countries and agencies, Mr Bob Frazer of the American Embassy on the one hand, and representatives of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] Commander Lam Akol Ajawin and alternate Commander Deng Alor Kuol on the other. The following was agreed upon:

1. Monday 29th [January] shall be the date when the air evacuations will take place from Juba town as from 0600 to 1800 Sudan local time [0400-1600 GMT], inclusive. This is a once and for all arrangement.

2. On this day and within the specified time, the SPLA undertakes not to shell the town, nor will it shoot at the planes evacuating these personnels from Juba town.

3. Should any military plane fly into Juba within the specified time, these agreements will be rendered null and void, and the SPLA's stance absolves [it] from any responsibility of the consequences that this violation of the agreement may entail.

In arriving at this agreement, the SPLM/SPLA once more reaffirms its commitment to see that innocent people should not be victims of a war they are not a party to. In this context, the movement appeals to the international opinion to bring pressure to bear on Khartoum government to allow the population in Juba who want to leave the town to do so.

Commander Appeals for Evacuation

EA2701191390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

["Appeal" of Commander James Wani Igga, SPLA commander for central Equatoria]

[Excerpts] This is another appeal for evacuation of towns. Dear citizens in the western bank of Equatoria: A most serious and critical moment has now come for me once again to renew my appeal and warning to you to evacuate the enemy-controlled towns. All the towns in western bank of Equatoria have now become primary targets of the Bright Star forces.

Juba is not excluded in this respect. In fact it is among the top targets on our list. The few hours of shelling on 21st January this year and yesterday only represented a warning to the Juba innocent residents and foreigners serving in that town. This does not mean that we have altogether discarded attacking Juba, but we are simply giving this (?chance) to you and any expatriate to evacuate. When we warn, we are being particular about your life. It is for you that we are having the [word indistinct] and we preserve all forms of suffering in the bush for your future.

However, our time is running out. Should we launch in any of the few days to come our major attack on Juba then any victim who remains will have but himself or herself to blame. [passage indistinct]

The oppressor's puppets in Juba claim that there is no danger to citizens, because this (?critical) situation is under their control. At any rate, let me assure you that that is a naked lie and naive propaganda. If this critical situation is under their control, then what caused the death of over 17 persons, killed on Sunday 21st January 1990, when the bombs and rockets were flying over in Juba that Sunday? [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, the [words indistinct] propaganda that any citizen who runs behind the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] lines is automatically killed has now become a folklore tale and a style of cheap politics. Behind the SPLA lines today are bishops, clergymen, professionals such as doctors, engineers, accountants, government executives, etc, etc, yet all of them are faring well and enjoying their freedom of worship, freedom to express oneself and criticize, freedom to exercise their professions and whatnot.

This is precisely the case for those citizens who have come to the SPLA lines during the attack on Kajo Kaji, Kaia, Morobo, Yei, Meridi, (Lanya) and so forth. If you are not convinced, just find the way of communicating with, say, Bishop (Arije Taban), Bishop (Seme Ey Solomon), Reverend Father (Samuel Kanis), Dr (Khayr Subek), Dr (Richard Jada), Mr Clement and former commissioner of Yei District, and so on. [passage omitted]

Army Claims 130 'Outlaws' Killed Near Juba

EA2801153890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 January (SUNA)—The Armed Forces killed 130 outlaws this morning at Karu and Banjan near Juba, Equatoria's capital.

This was said today in a statement issued by the General Command, which stressed that the Armed Forces [words indistinct] to comb the area to ensure the security of Juba. The statement clarified that the command of the Equatoria Military Zone had formed, following the shelling to which (?Juba) was subjected last week, two groups [word indistinct] which this morning carried out successful operations and succeeded in killing 130 outlaws. They are continuing their combing of the area to ensure the security of Juba.

The statement said that the outlaws [word indistinct] twice last week, the latest being on Friday when the town was subjected at 1100 in the morning to shelling from a distance of 30 km. This led to the killing of two citizens, the wounding of 17 others, and the destruction of 17 houses.

SPLA Says Government Army Chief Resigns

EA2601180790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Reliable sources in Khartoum say that the Sudan Army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, has given his resignation to the junta. The sources say that among the reasons behind the resignation of the chief of staff is a quarrel between him and Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din, who is a member of the junta and a man of the National Islamic Front. Maj Shams al-Din accused the chief of staff of being responsible for the military defeat faced by the National Islamic Front troops in War Zone One, especially in western Equatoria, which had resulted in the fall of many garrisons to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army].

The junta is trying to cover up this important development by denying it over Radio Omdurman. The question is that, suppose the news about the resignation of the chief of staff is not true, then why should he remain in his house and not exercising his duties, and why should Radio Omdurman deny it?

Paper Says Israel, Ethiopia Ties 'Suspect'

EA2401124290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA)—AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH [MODERN SUDAN] today dealt in its daily column with the suspect relations between Ethiopia and Israel under the title "a conspiracy plan".

The paper said that the web of suspect relations between Ethiopia and Israel continued to widen, within the framework of a strategic plan aimed at striking at the Islamic and Arab nation. The hostile plan is using Ethiopia as a cat's paw to implement its objectives.

The paper said in its editorial that the continuation of the war in the south was the first link in the plan. The Zionist conspiracy had intensified its support for the rebels. Moreover, the conspiracy links include control of the important entry points of the Red Sea, and threats to Arab food security by the building of dams on the Nile, the largest Arab river, to upset any irrigation projects for the exploitation of its valleys [words indistinct] dependence on the foreigner with regard to provision of food for Arab consumption.

The paper went on to say in its editorial that Ethiopia granted the Zionist entity whatever it wanted, including a military base on one of its islands in the Red Sea, in return for material and arms assistance from the Zionists. Israel had opened up its arms arsenal to the Addis Ababa government, and for some time now Ethiopia has been witnessing energetic contacts with Israel. Daily its coasts and airports receive Zionist weapons of all types. Ethiopia has also become an important station for Israel in the civil and military fields.

AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH said in today's editorial that the National Salvation Revolution had drawn attention on more than one occasion to the gravity of the Zionist moves in the Red Sea. It had called for care and caution with regard to these moves, both in the long and short terms.

In its editorial, the newspaper expressed the hope that the response of the Red Sea states would match the threat constituted by the Zionist-Ethiopian conspiracy plan, but this would not be possible without joint efforts by all the Arab states.

RCC's Al-Bashir Opens Anti-Corruption Office

EA2701214290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Excerpt] This morning, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, and other RCC members delivered documents acknowledging their possessions [Iqrarat al-dhimmah] to the minister of justice and attorney general. This took place when Lt Gen 'Umar declared open the main offices of the Department for Combating Unlawful Enrichment.

Mr Hasan Isma'il al-Bili, the minister of justice and attorney general, spoke and said that the Department for Combating Unlawful Enrichment is one of the pillars entrenched by the National Salvation revolution to combat corruption and safeguard public property. [passage omitted]

RCC's Khalifah Denies Human Rights Violations

EA2701205190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the delegation of the national peace dialogue conference which is currently visiting Brussels, has denied allegations that the Sudanese Government has been violating the human rights charter. In a statement to the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, he confirmed that the detainees in Sudan were in a situation imposed by the security circumstances and the problems caused by the war in the south of the country.

Col Khalifah said that the Sudanese Government gave maximum priority to the achievement of stability in the south. He pointed out that the ending of the fighting, which had been going on for some years, would constitute the main factor for the entrenchment of democracy, the supremacy of the law, and the spread of general freedoms.

Saudi Arabia

USSR Emigration Policy on Soviet Jews Criticized

LD2601221490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, God's peace and blessings be upon you. The flow of Soviet Jews emigrating to occupied Palestine recently has increased following opening of talks between the Soviet authorities and the government of the Israeli enemy. The phenomenon of Soviet Jews emigrating to the Israeli entity has started to attract attention, especially since the Soviet airlines have flown between Moscow and Tel Aviv for the first time to transport groups of Jewish emigrants.

This contact between Tel Aviv and Moscow constitutes, in its new form, a new element in the flirtation between the two sides. This flirtation started about 2 years ago and was crowned by an exchange of visits between officials, making diplomatic interaction possible at the consular level for the first time since diplomatic relations were severed by the Soviets in 1967.

All this should be considered an element in the series of endeavors by the Soviet Union to resume its ties with the Zionist entity. These are ties which will be made at the expense of Soviet-Arab relations, whose core during past years was the Soviets' commitment to solving the Palestinian problem and enabling Palestinians to recover their rights. These are the main conditions for Moscow to resume relations with Tel Aviv. The Soviet stand regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, however, recently has followed a (?winding) line, which sharply departed from Soviet support for the PLO's call for convening an international conference to set up the foundations of a just and durable solution. There appeared to be a Soviet call, or advice, not to be strict regarding PLO participaton in the international conference, or in any direct dialogue with Israel, and to not oppose participation by a delegation of Palestinian leaders from the Arab occupied territories.

If this advice is fact, the Soviets agree with requests by the Israeli enemy. It also reflects a serious change of mind by Moscow, which means it has relinquished, or is relinquishing its previous stands.

The flow of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine has surpassed all previous averages of Soviet Jewish emigration. It never has exceeded hundreds a year, yet now includes thousands per month by direct flights, despite the fact emigration used to occur via a third party. This reflects a serious change in the Soviet stand regarding resumption of its relations with the Zionist entity in a way that reflects Moscow's ignorance of the fact emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine occurs at the expense of the country's original people. They are facing a fierce war waged by the enemy with the force of iron and fire to force them to empty their homeland, to be replaced by foreigners.

This is well known by the Soviets and was, even recently, opposed by them. So, what has happened?

'Source' Accuses Tehran of Planting 'Sedition'

LD2501195990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible source called Radio Tehran's attempt to drag the name of Saudi Arabia into what the radio called a failure—the pressure exerted on the attempt to restore Kuwait's parliamentary life through the National Assembly.

In a statement to SPA today, the source said these cheap machinations, which Radio Tehran made yesterday and today, will not achieve their goals. These goals are known to us and the Kuwaiti Government because of the historic relations and great cooperation between us, based on mutual nonintervention in each country's internal affairs.

The responsible source added: The Iranian media has run out of all ammunition, which it has used since the beginning of its revolution. It hence resumed the role it never abandoned of trying to plant sedition, evil, and hatred among the sons of the one society in the Arabian Gulf. The responsible source stressed, however, that this kind of demagogic media, based on deceit and self deception, will perish before it deceives anyone else. It will be buried before it is born. The source attributed this to cohesion among the Arabian Gulf countries, in addition to the understanding prevailing in their societies—the dimensions of which the Iranian media do not perceive, and Iranian officials do not understand.

The responsible source stressed that just as all previous attempts failed—in which the Iranian media used the policy of divide and rule—so will any other attempt by that media to violate the reputation, dignity, and perception of the citizens in the two fraternal countries, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In his statement to SPA, the responsible source reiterated the Saudi commitment to its declared, firm political principle, based on good neighborliness and nonintervention in the internal affairs of the others. He completely excluded the allegation of Tehran Radio that Saudi Arabia has exerted, or is exerting, pressure on fraternal Kuwait. He said every state has the right to implement the system it wants and its wishes for society. This policy is not new for Saudi Arabia, as everyone knows. If the Iranian Government does not know this or pretends it does not, then it should correct the information through which it tries to deceive the Iranian people, who are plagued by this hated regime that has no place in today's world.

The responsible source warned the Iranian media against using such methods whose aims and goals are completley exposed and do not follow any values or ideals, but continue to violate them. Such media therefore continues its trespassing and deception, which no longer deceive anyone, especially in Arabian Gulf societies.

The source concluded the statement by saying, the Iranian Government, instead of trying to divide, throw doubts, and prolong the hatred among the Muslims, should have responded to the good peace invitation repeatedly addressed by President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, because of his correct view peace should prevail over the whole region so its governments and societies can direct themselves to construction and stability.

Defense Minister Meets U.S. Military Delegation

LD2301181690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense aviation and inspector general, at noon today received at his office U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Henry C. Brown [name as received] and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; Lieutenant General Yusuf al-Rashid, acting chief of the General Staff and commander of the Land Forces Staff; and the commanders of the air, naval and air defense forces. Important issues were discussed and gifts exchanged.

Assistant Minister al-Humayd also received Mr Brown and his delegation at his office, as did the acting chief of the General Staff and commander of the Land Forces. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Continues U.S. Trip; Meets Congressmen

JN2301183490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallad Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, visited the U.S. Congress. House member [name indistinct], chairman of the subcommittee on the Middle East and Europe, hosted a reception in honor of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. A number of senior U.S. officials and members of Congress attended the reception, as did the Shura Council members accompanying the brother president.

Relations between the two countries were discussed in the meeting, and issues of mutual concern were reviewed—primarily current Mideast developments.

Further on Visit

JN2601204890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received senior U.S. officials at his residence at Blair House in Washington.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary for Near East and South Asia Affairs, and discussed with him relations between the two friendly countries. They also reviewed developments in the Mideast on the Palestinian question and efforts to establish peace in the region.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih later received Mark Edelman, acting director of the International Development Cooperation Agency, and they discussed cooperation between the agency and our country.

The brother leader secretary general then received at his residence general [name indistinct], commander in chief of the Central Command. They discussed areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Saddam Addresses Cabinet on State Socialism

JN2701212090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has affirmed the Ba'th Party's principles, which state socialism in terms of application and type is linked to circumstances and the level of development attained by society, will remain sound and intact. He added: You will see your march will remain under constant review and reconsideration.

Chairing a 5-hour meeting of the cabinet this morning, his excellency the president said: With socialism, you try to feed the hungry. If you remain preoccupied with things that concern the stomach, however, you miss other important issues. When hungry people satisfy the needs of their stomachs, their attention moves to other things. The current conflict therefore will continue, not only between the hungry and the well-off, but also among those who have attained various degrees of wealth. The reference here is to inter-state, intra-class, and inter-class conflicts. This is a human condition characterizing contemporary society. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president added: We should not depend on efforts of an elite in thinking and launching initiatives. We must accept inventive ideas regardless of their source to help our system remain alive and vigorous. We always must think of new ways to implement this system. Beware of fanaticism in pursuit of a specific formula, and the belief certain formulas are indispensable. Socialist formulas, as we view them and see them, always have alternatives. We noted this in a 1975 pamphlet. In that pamphlet, we said our method of achieving socialist construction will be harder than the capitalist and communist methods. Because capitalism advocates total freedom, regardless of the fact there must be exceptions, it is indifferent to the harm that society might suffer as a result. As for communist thought, it said there can be no private ownership; it thus chose the temporary, easy way. As for us, our option is more complicated, because the easy solution is not always the correct one.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn added: In our experience, we have a socialist sector and a private one. We attach great importance to efforts to learn how the socialist sector succeeded in renewing implementation formulas. In the same vein, we must consider ways to renew the private sector. Our minds must not be preoccupied exclusively with working to help the socialist sector succeed, even though we are advocating a socialist system. Pursuit of such a policy would cause socialism to fail. In view of this concept, we should not allow ourselves to envisage the success of the socialist sector if we fail to provide similar facilities in the best possible manner to the private sector. We have seen how certain countries have managed to deprive people of private ownership, but failed to secure and maintain the people's allegiance. [passage omitted]

Iranian Role Seen in Azerbaijan Disturbances

JN2801111290 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 28, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today confirmed that the Iranian regime has been playing the instigating racist role and recruiting its mercenary followers and arming them under the slogan of exporting the so-called "the Khomeyni revolution" to the world states.

In an article today, the paper has said that this clearly seen role in the current disturbances in Azerbaijan was since the beginning of the Khomeyni phenomenon, a material of betting by certain circles in the West that had since long comprehended its spheres and devastating capabilities.

That has encouraged them to grasp that phenomenon and care for it, politically and in information and recruiting it in the process of creating chaos, turbulence, and instability in the Mideast and the southern part of the Soviet Union.

AL-JUMHURIYAH pointed out that the so-called Iranian ideology of exporting the revolution led to kindling one of the most vicious wars after the Second World War that created chaos, turmoil and subversion along the entire region especially in Lebanon...It added that despite the defeat of this ideology in the Iraq-Iran war and blunting its major impetus against Iraq's steadfastness and bravery of its Army, move to the direct participation in the current disturbances in the southern areas of the Soviet Union. [sentence as received]

It said that concerned circles in the West which were behind this phenomenon (the Iranian ideology) and through support of Zionist circles and those sympathizing with it viewed the possibility of realizing several of its objectives.

These objectives, it said, were represented in destabilizing the national infrastructures of the social, cultural and political map in the Middle East and exhausting the moral and material potentials of the peoples of the region by preoccupying them in wars and disputes.

Among those objectives were also represented in obstructing Iraq's growth which is considered the most capable Arab country to form the nucleus for a strong military, economic and political mights and then turning to the Soviet Union to realize chaos, ethnic, sectarian and political turmoil.

Peace Initiative Places 'Blockade' Before Iran

JN2801125890 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, JAN 28, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said the new peaceful initiative of

President Saddam Husayn comprised legal and executive measures and solutions that would certainly place Iran rulers before a decisive state of blockade.

A daily article here today said that a breakthrough for this state implies two options namely, responding to peace and accepting this good initiative which expresses the aspirations of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples or facing the decisive destiny of rejecting peace and will of the peoples.

The daily referred to the prominent role played by repeated Iraqi peaceful initiative and the messages of President Husayn to the Iranian peoples in creating atmospheres of peace and boosting its concepts and significance for future life in the region.

French Defense Minister Arrives on Visit 27 Jan

JN2801120690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Baghdad today heading a delegation on a serveral-day, official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the French minister paid tribute to the ties of cooperation between Iraq and France and described them as strong and old. He highly valued the Iraqi peace initiative announced by his excellency the president on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army. He added Iraq's peace initiative is viewed as positive, serving the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Defense Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and the French ambassador in Baghdad welcomed Chevenement at the airport.

Meets With Saddam

JN2801122090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning received French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

They discussed friendly bilateral ties and ways of developing them.

Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, and the French ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Confers With Industry Minister

JN2801131290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, today met with Jean-Pierre Chevenement, French defense minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

The minister during the meeting reviewed Iraq's plans to develop and launch new industrial projects. He also expressed Iraq's desire to cooperate with French companies in implementing a number of these projects.

The guest minister affirmed his country's eagerness to enhance and bolster cooperation between the two countries.

Committee Supporting Palestinan Uprising Formed

JN2801121790 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 28, INA—An Iraqi national committee for the support of the Palestinian uprising was formed here on Saturday. [27 January]

The committee came into existence following a decision taken by the Popular Arab Front during its constituent meetings held in Baghdad on December 8.

The front called for setting up national committees in each Arab country to provide the Palestinian uprising with material, media, and moral support.

The Iraqi national committee comprises representatives from the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the National Assembly (Parliament), Ministry of Information and Culture and other union officials and nongovernmental bodies.

Israel, Egypt Said To Agree on Delegation

TA2601164090 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jan 90 pp 1, 9

[By Muhammad Dalbah]

[Excerpt] Washington—Informed diplomatic sources have said Egypt and Israel have agreed in principle on the issue of forming the Palestinian delegation that will take part in the proposed dialogue with the Israelis in Cairo, on the basis of the proposals by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. It has become clear now all the political Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli contacts and consultations had concentrated on this issue, which will open the door to a tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli ministerial meeting in Washington.

These sources say that during his third meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 19 January, Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed Egypt will play a role exceeding the list of a Palestinian delegation, and that this list will be put to the PLO.

Should the PLO agree to this list, a number of Palestinian organizations and institutions in the occupied territories will be advised to adopt the list and announce it represents the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

During the coming 2 weeks, the U.S. Administration and Egypt will try to persuade the PLO to accept the new Israeli proposals Rabin carried with him during his visit to the United States last week. It was said Rabin has no objection to including in the Palestinian delegation elements from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, including two deportees, provided they have no connection to military operations and security activities against Israel.

The same diplomatic sources say to surmount the obstacle represented by the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections, Rabin suggested in Washington that he will ask East Jerusalem Palestinians to register their names in towns and villages outside Jerusalem's boundaries, for example in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jericho, and cast their votes there.

These sources say Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid agreed to this suggestion as a step toward reaching agreement between Egypt, the United States, and Israel on convening the proposed meeting in Washington between the foreign ministers of these countries, which is one of the major points in Baker's plan.

Shamir's Office 'Unaware' of Ministers Meeting

TA2701194490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Political sources this evening told our political correspondent, Yig'al Goren, the United States is very eager to arrange as early as next week a meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers, before Secretary of State Baker leaves for talks in Moscow. A decision on this depends on Egypt's response to questions on the composition of the Palestinian delegation raised in Washington by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 27 January notes "at this point, the defense minister has no intention of presenting the Inner Cabinet and the Cabinet with new proposals to promote the peace process. Quoting sources in Rabin's office, our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the defense minister is awaiting Egypt's response to the questions he relayed to them via the Americans."]

The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry are unaware of any intention to conduct the foreign minister's meeting in early February.

Arens' Statement To Include Deportees Denied

TA2601184990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] In a meeting with Minister Moshe Shahal today, the Portuguese president said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told him during his recent visit he would agree to including deportees in the Palestinian delegation. Shahal told our political correspondent Arye Golan he had explained to the Portuguese president the PLO's demand to announce the delegation's composition would encounter opposition in the Israeli Cabinet and, therefore, this should be done by a third party.

Dani Nave, the foreign minister's aide who attended the meeting between Minister Arens and the Portuguese president, told our correspondent this report is not true.

Shamir: Peres Has No 'Narrow-Based Government'

TA2801175290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening Shim'on Peres does not have a narrow-based government in hand and only wants to create an impression of one that would be accepted as fact. Shamir added the religious community is closer to the Likud than to the Alignment.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the prime minister made these remarks to a group of Likud Central Committee members summoned to his office. Shamir added he intends to tell the Likud Central Committee members if they want the prime minister to conduct the campaign for Eretz Yisra'el and the party's principles, they must give him the necessary confidence and authority.

Mubarak: Jordan 'Regrets' Decision on Territories

TA2801143490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that during their meetings in Cairo, Egyptian President

Husni Mubarak told him Jordan now regrets its decision to cut itself off from the territories, and it would consider proposing the establishment of a confederation with the territories.

Minister Peres pointed out during today's Cabinet seesion that the Egyptian President had expressed hope Jordan would join the political process.

USSR Status Opposed Unless Direct Flights Resumed

TA2801095290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 90 p 8

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Israel will oppose a U.S. congressional effort to grant most-favoured-nation trade status to the Soviet Union unless the Soviets reverse their policy and permit direct flights to Israel, highly placed diplomatic sources told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

The sources also said that Israel is hoping U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will raise the issue of direct flights with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shvevardnadze during their meetings in Moscow early next month.

"The Soviets cannot speak of free emigration and then tell those wishing to emigrate that they cannot get an airplane ticket for close to a year," one senior source said. Israeli officials have said that once the Soviets give their approval, jumbo jet service could begin immediately, increasing considerably the number of Soviet Jews able to leave. [passage omitted]

The Soviet airliner Aeroflot and El Al signed a commercial agreement early last month to start flights, but senior Foreign Ministry officials told THE POST that the Soviet Foreign Ministry is withholding its approval as the Soviets want this move linked to Israeli talks with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Currently Soviet Jewish immigrants are arriving in Israel via transit points in Eastern Europe. Some 5,000 Soviet immigrants are expected to arrive in Israel this month.

The sources said that Israel will also ask Baker to request that Shevardnadze permit Israel's delegation in Moscow to include more representatives, as the six diplomats now there are heavily overworked with paperwork of potential immigrants, with the immigrants themselves waiting in long lines outside the building of the Israel delegation.

At a briefing for reporters, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud called upon the Soviet government to "remove all obstacles" blocking the commerical agreement between Aeroflot and El Al.

'Amihud also praised the agreement last week between the Soviet Union and Israel reestablishing ties between their respective chambers of commerce, which were severed in 1956.

Aeroflot Official 'Interested' in Tourism

TA2801203190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The representative of the Soviet national carrier, Aeroflot, visiting Israel with the Soviet economic delegation, is interested in bringing Israeli travel agents to the USSR.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Miro reports the request was raised today during the delegation's meeting with Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat. The delegation's members asked Minister Pat to issue entry visas to Soviet tourists, and the minister suggested they conduct courses for Soviet travel guides in Israeli tourism schools.

'Preliminary' Talks on GDR Ties 'This Week'

TA2801053490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Israel this week begins talks with East Germany on the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Israeli side is being represented by Mikha'el Shilo, adviser to Foreign Minister Arens. A Foreign Ministry spokesman termed the contacts as preliminary. In the past, Israel has said it will not establish relations with East Germany until it acknowledges responsibility for the Holocaust and agrees to compensation for the families of Jewish victims.

Peres Briefs Cabinet on CSSR, Egypt Visits

TA2801115290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres briefed Cabinet ministers in great detail today on his talks in the CSSR. He was much more circumspect in his report about his talks with President Mubarak in Egypt. Peres told the ministers about developments in Egypt, the rebuilding of bridges, development of the telephone network, and so forth. Minister Peres did not go into detail about the political talks he conducted with Mubarak to advance the process, a decision which aroused criticism from Likud ministers. Minister Qatzav said: Your report was like a tourist's. The vice prime minister promised to report to the Inner Cabinet on the political aspect of his Egypt visit.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens gave the ministers a political survey. The Foreign Ministry spokesman today said Israel welcomes signing of the accord in Moscow between the Soviet and Israeli chambers of commerce. It constitutes a turning point in the renewal of the two countries' trade and economic relations, which were severed in 1956, the spokesman said.

Israel also noted the TASS report in which Foreign Minister Shevardnadze expressed readiness to conduct talks on formalizing the status of the two countries'

consular delegations. This was agreed upon during Minister Arens' meeting last year with the Soviet foreign minister at the UN General Assembly. Israel also hopes establishing the chambers of commerce offices and settling the status of the consular delegations soon will lead to full normalization of relations between the USSR and Israel. Israel also expects to overcome obstacles delaying immediate implementation of the air link signed between El Al and Aeroflot in December.

Funds Allotted for Computer Projects With France

TA2801133590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports Israel and France will cooperate in the research and development of a supercomputer and will exchange scientific know-how. The Israeli-French committee on computer sciences convened today in Jerusalem and decided each country would allocate $0.5 million to computer-related projects and another $1 million to biotechnological research and development. The joint projects could be launched this summer.

The director general of the Science and Development Ministry said for now Israel's relations with the EC continue as normal, despite the European Parliament's decision last week to abstain from strengthening its scientific relations with Israel.

DFLP 'Terrorist' Caught in South Lebanon

TA2701192890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] An Israeli Army unit this morning in south Lebanon caught a terrorist who was a member of the squad that approached the Israeli border yesterday morning, encountered an Israeli Army patrol, and withdrew. Our correspondent in the north, Moti Eden, reports the terrorist admitted he and his friends had planned to reach and attack Kibbutz Misgav 'Am. The terrorist is a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Update on 26-27 Jan Incidents in Territories

TA2801110190

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 January carries several reports, all on page 2, on 26-27 January incidents in the territories. Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin report "according to Palestinian sources, the Army carried out initiated operations in several West Bank locations. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detained four residents of the al-Am'ari refugee camp. There were other operations in Tuqu' and Wadi Fukin in the Bethlehem area, and in al-Maghar in the Ramallah area. "The curfews imposed on the villages of Jaba' in the Nabulus District and Zawiyah in the Janin area were lifted. A group of youths wearing red keffiyehs and waving Palestinian flags yesterday marched in the old city of Nabulus. Uniformed youths staged a large march near Qalqilyah, during which they practiced throwing firebombs."

"In clashes with IDF troops yesterday in Gaza, 11 locals were wounded. According to Palestinian sources, seven residents were wounded in a serious clash in the city's al-Nasir neighborhood. Several others were injured in Rafah, Jabalyah, and other Gaza city neighborhoods." Palestinian sources also reported disturbances in "Gaza Strip schools, mainly in those sponsored by the UN Relief and Works Agency." "Nine students were reportedly hurt by tear gas."

"In Khan Yunus, there were two attempted attacks on men suspected of collaboration. The two were slightly wounded and taken to the hospital. An IDF soldier on Saturday was injured in the shoulder and treated on the spot."

"The IDF spokesman's representative in the Southern Command said there were no curfews imposed on the Gaza Strip, and life was orderly. He confirmed six men were injured there in local disturbances during the weekend.

"The Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip is considering closing more schools because of disturbances. This is being countered by pressure from various elements and notables in the Strip. Fifteen schools where riots occured have been closed, and no decision has been reached on reopening them.

"IDF units in the Strip foiled three attempts by residents—one from Qalqilyah and two from Rafah—to cross the border to Egypt."

In a separate item, Yizhar Be'er reports "on Friday, the mosque in Burin, south of Nabulus, suffered severe damage from a fire." "Locals claim they saw armed civilians flee after the fire started," and they are convinced "they were from nearby settlements." "As soon as the Army was notified, a curfew was imposed on the village, reporters were banned, and phone links with the village severed."

On the same page, Eytan Rabin says "two senior IDF officers were injured last weekend by stones thrown at their car. The two are Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, commander of the IDF units in the Gaza Strip; and Colonel Ya'aqov Sade, his deputy. Sade suffered facial injuries and underwent surgery, while Poleg was injured in the back and did not need medical treatment."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 January carries a report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Oron Me'iri on page 7 saying "the IDF closed during the weekend two schools in Hebron after stones were thrown from within the school yards."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 January carries an ITIM report on page 8 according to which "two unidentified men" entered Kokhav Ya'ir "just inside the Green Line last night" and "threw petrol

bombs into the yards of several houses. The bombs failed to ignite, and the men fled, leaving some 10 petrol bombs behind. No one was injured and no damage was done." The report adds the incident is being investigated by the security forces.

3 Soldiers Wounded by Mines in S. Lebanon

TA2601173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Two Israeli Army soldiers were lightly wounded this afternoon when their car ran over a mine near the Bayt Yahun crossing in the security zone's western sector in southern Lebanon. They were taken to a hospital. Earlier in the same area, an Israeli officer was wounded when his tank ran over a mine.

Commander Lodges Protest

TA2801204590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, lodged a severe protest with the UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] headquarters. The general asserted it is inconceivable terrorists keep placing land mines close to UN positions while UN soldiers see nothing suspicious.

One of the three soldiers injured 2 days ago in south Lebanon when 2 mines exploded remains hospitalized in Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today launched a probe into circumstances surrounding damage to two tanks and a tank carrier by land mines placed near Bayt Yahun. [passage omitted]

Arab Murdered in Khan Yunus; Strike in Jerusalem

TA2801112890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] Isma'il 'Abd-al-'Ali Abu-Yusuf, 42, a teacher at the local high school in Khan Yunus, was murdered around 0700 today, a few minutes after he left home for work. A masked group attacked him with knives, stabbing him to death. An investigation into the affair is being conducted by the local general prosecutor with full assistance from the Gaza District Police. The murder's motive remains unclear. It was quiet elsewhere in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 28 January adds: "In East Jerusalem, a commercial strike is in effect to mourn the deaths yesterday of two residents of Abu-Dis who died from Army gunfire. The curfew imposed on the village remains in effect."]

'Steep Rise' in Suicides Among IDF Soldiers

TA2901100790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jan 90 p A1

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There has been a steep rise during the last 3 months (November 1989-January 1990) in the suicide rate among standing Army and reserve soldiers. According to unofficial data, there were 25 suicides in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] during the last 6 months (including suicides of 19 standing Army soldiers), compared with 11 cases in the same period last year.

The IDF's top echelons have expressed great concern over the suicides, and senior elements in the General Staff's Personnel Branch and in the Medical Corps headquarters now are examining various means to curb the phenomenon. The Personnel Branch has worked out a plan to reexamine the classification system used by recruitment centers to facilitate diagnosis of soldiers suffering from maladjustment and mental problems and refer them to the appropriate Army bodies.

Human Rights Center Notes Rise in Demolitions

TA2901110290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jan 90 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] More homes of Palestinians have been demolished or sealed in the territories this month than in any other month of the uprising, except for June 1989, according to figures released yesterday by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

According to Betzelem, a total of 38 homes have been demolished or sealed for security reasons in the territories in January. In the Gaza Strip, 16 were demolished and two were sealed. In the West Bank, four were demolished and 16 were sealed.

The figures represent a significant increase in the use of demolitions and sealings as punishment, in comparison with recent months, according to Betzelem. In October, three homes were destroyed in the West Bank and none in the Gaza Strip.

The total number of homes demolished and sealed since the start of the uprising is at least 432. These include 295 in the West Bank and 137 in the Gaza Strip, according to Betzelem statistics.

Many of the homes demolished recently belonged to families of Palestinians arrested on suspicion of killing and assaulting alleged "collaborators." The demolitions are part of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] attempt to fight the wave of slayings of Palestinians alleged to be cooperating with the authorities. [passage omitted]

King Conveys 'Concern' to U.S. on Immigration

JN2701164690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 21

[From Huda Tawfiq in Washington]

[Text] Washington—AL-ITTIHAD has learned King Husayn has officially conveyed to the U.S. Government Jordan's concern about possible U.S. Congress approval of assistance to Israel to settle Soviet Jews.

King Husayn emphasized the influx of Jewish emigrants to Israel might affect the peace process and exacerbate the situation in the occupied territories, in light of measures to deport the Palestinians and prevent their return.

The Jordanian stance was expressed a few days ago during King Husayn's meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Amman, which a number of ministers and advisers attended. The Jordanian side raised the following points:

1. The proposal by a U.S. senator to extend a $500 million loan to Israel to help settle Soviet Jews.

2. Increasing immigration to Israel will lead to further pressure to settle Jews in the occupied Arab territories and expel the original inhabitants from their land.

3. Jordan thinks U.S. policy toward this immigration is contradictory.

AL-ITTIHAD learned the U.S. ambassador in Amman briefed the Jordanian monarch on Washington's position, which can be summed up by saying the U.S. Administration has not decided to extend assistance to settle Jews, and no legislation has been presented to Congress concerning assistance to Israel to deal with settling Jews. The U.S. Administration, however, could not predict measures Congress may take in its current session.

USSR Envoy: Emigration Fears 'Exaggerated'

JN2701094090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 90 p 4

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Amman—Mr Nabil 'Amr, representative of the state of Palestine in Moscow, has said the new situation in the Soviet Union constitutes a challenge to the Arabs and Palestinians. If they do not face this challenge logically, they will lose out in an important time, when peoples' destinies are being shaped, he added.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, 'Amr said the Soviet Union is inviting Arab presence on its territory and among its peoples; it is inviting the Arabs to work at all levels, to contribute to the current Soviet economic openness, and to stop depending on the so-called "principled traditional relations"—which was possible when the relationship with the Soviet Union was an easy one. [passage omitted]

In another interview with AL-DUSTUR, Aleksandr Zinchuk, Soviet ambassador to Jordan, said his country eased restrictions on emigration, which led to the exodus of a large number of Soviet Jews, especially this year. He said emigrating Soviet Jews used to go to the United States and Europe, with only 10 percent heading for Israel. The United States, he pointed out, restricted the entry of these emigrants, and the Soviet Union cannot control the emigration or determine the destinations of the emigrants. The emigration law in the Soviet Union is applicable to all citizens, he added.

Zinchuk said Arab fears regarding emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel are exaggerated. He said he believes Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel will not be looking forward to confronting the Palestinian Arabs or experiencing Israel's economic hardship. They will take the first opportunity to leave Israel and live in safer and less dangerous places, he said. [passage omitted]

'Urgent High-Level' Action Needed on Immigration

JN2901094290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Emigration of the Soviet Jews Once More"]

[Text] Day by day, dangers inherent in the mass immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine are being revealed. Complications surrounding such a human settlement wave, whose vanguards began arriving in the vacant settlements of the occupied West Bank, also are becoming clearer.

Perhaps the urgent calls by the national leaderships in the occupied Palestinian land reveals an awareness of the high price the masses in the occupied territories might pay if this wave continues its flow from the Soviet Union directly into the homes of the Palestinian Arabs.

It also seems the first direct victim of this wave will be the foundering Middle East peace process. This emigration has imbued the Israeli leaders with a new spirit of extremism and caused some of them to talk publicly of a Greater Israel, while others have shown more recalcitrance and rejection of everything that might lead Israel to relinquish the occupied land.

The continuation of the flow of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine thus can completely undermine all efforts to reactivate the peace process in the region. It also, at the same time, can render inefficacious Security Council Resolution No 242—the resolution agreed upon by the Soviet Union, which later was considered as the basis for any diplomatic move aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Before all this, in addition to our awareness of all threats entailed by this wave of Jewish emigration, we also realized dealing with the issue only through press articles will not harm any of the parties involved in this emigration and will not prevent a Jew from arriving in the occupied land. We therefore strongly call for an urgent high-level Arab action primarily directed toward the Soviet capital itself, which includes Soviet officials and others from both sides of Europe, to prevent establishing another Israel in the Middle East.

While we cherish hope the Arab leaders will act according to the dictates of the imminent danger entailed by this emigration, we do not entertain doubts an effective Arab stance can produce the desirable effect regarding the course of this emigration, especially if the Arabs deal with the Soviet Union from the perspective of mutual interests and command the new language spoken by the historical friends in the era of glasnost and perestroika.

Tunisian Information Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2601123590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Amman—Habib Boulares, Tunisian minister of culture and information, today arrived in Amman via al-Ramtha on a visit to Jordan, during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

In a statement he made upon arrival, the Tunisian minister said his visit to Jordan falls within the framework of consultations among heads of Arab states on bilateral, Arab, and international issues, particularly the cause of the Palestinian people's struggle vis-a-vis Israeli intransigence and Israel's rejection of the peaceful solutions based on international legitimacy.

He also said: My visit comes after the summit meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union recently conducted in Tunis. That meeting yielded results considered important, and it is important to brief the brother Arab leaders on these results, especially since Tunis now chairs the Arab Maghreb Union, which works under the auspices of the Arab League, headquartered in Tunis.

Meets With Husayn

JN2701171290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Habib Boulares, Tunisian minister of culture and information, who handed his majesty a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The message concerns the latest Arab and international developments and their impact on Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian question. The minister also conveyed greetings to his majesty from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din; and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman attended.

The Tunisian minister said following the meeting: I was honored to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and convey to him a message from his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I also listened to his majesty's sound opinions and sincere positions on the Arab nation's future and the challenges facing it. We also discussed our excellent bilateral relations and means to push them forward according to our people's ambitions and aspirations.

Departs 28 Jan

JN2801124690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Habib Boulares, Tunisian minister of culture and information, left Amman for home today following a 3-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and conveyed to him a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on Arab and international developments and their repercussions on Arab issues, especially the Palestinian question.

The minister also met with a number of senior officials and discussed with them fraternal bilateral ties and ways to develop them.

The Tunisian minister was seen off at Queen Alia Airport by Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din and Tunisian Ambassador in Amman Muhammad al-Munji al-Habib.

Minister Comments on Soviet Scholarship Fees

JN2701111290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian students pursuing studies at Soviet universities will have not pay fees, Ministry of Education and Higher Education Director of Cultural Affairs Mu'awiyah Khaza'i said Friday. [sentence as published]

Cultural and scientific ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union were organised by an agreement signed between the two countries.

Khaza'i referred to a Soviet proposal which calls on Jordan to partially contribute to costs of education of Jordanian students and said: "Jordan made it clear that it does not sent Jordanian students on scholarship abroad unless this is done at the expense of friendly countries. That is why Jordan proposed that scholarships remain at the expense of the Soviet Union and if economic problems stand in the way then the number of scholarships can be reduced."

House Finance Committee Proposes Budget Cuts

JN2801080690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 90 p 1

[By "a JORDAN TIMES staff writer"]

[Text] Amman—The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Saturday proposed slight trimmings in the 1990 draft budget and the full House launched a marathon session of debate on the recommendations.

The House was meeting late into Saturday night, and officials said the deputies wanted to conclude the debate by Sunday evening so as not to disrupt plans for a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee Monday. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi will head the Syrian side to the meeting.

The Finance Committee's report was presented to the House by its member, 'Abdallah 'Akayilah. The report paid tribute to the "high degree of responsibility and reality" reflected in the austerity budget of JD 1.105 billion, which forecasts a deficit of JD 199 million. But it criticised past "mistakes" which led the Kingdom to dire economic straits.

The report said past policies and measures "almost led us to a complete lack of security and trust in the ability of the government to control the economy properly and develop it."

"The Kingdom's debt has exceeded all internationally recognised limits and moved into a dangerous zone," said the report, which estimated repayment of the Kingdom's $8.3 billion foreign debt, even after reschedulings, would be 27 per cent of the country's total income from exports—seven points above the internationally accepted safety line.

The committee proposed that the budget be reduced by about JD 15 million by slashing administrative budgets for a number of ministries and departments. Among the proposals was a JD 1.5 million reduction for the JD 45 million allocation for the Public Security Department (PSD) and related organisations. Several senior PSD officials attended Saturday's session and were seen lobbying deputies against the proposal, which, according to informed sources, will deprive the department of about JD 1 million.

The report proposed a study to increase the JD 60 million subsidies for basic foodstuffs but did not suggest any specific figure.

The committee said the government's projection of JD 160 million in foreign grant aid was probably conservative since Jordan received JD 253 million last year.

The committee asked Parliament to pass laws restoring law-makers' budgetary authority over agencies such as universities, public companies and the Royal Jordanian Airline.

It complained that it had no say on their budgets, which accounted for a third of government spending.

The committee generally approved the government's 1993 economic targets, worked out in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, but said it was doubtful over the country's ability to achieve them.

Those targets include calls to build foreign reserves to $750 million from $350 million, cut the budget deficit before aid to nine per cent from 20 per cent in 1988 and trim inflation to seven per cent from about 25 per cent last year, as well as raising real economic growth to four per cent a year from minus two per cent in 1988.

Deputies who spoke Saturday appeared to use the opportunity to air their opinion on issues not related to the budget and highlight the need for public services and facilities in their respective constituencies.

Deputy 'Awni al-Bashir said more attention should be given to ensure that food subsidies benefit the most needy sector of the society.

Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi, a constant critic of the government, called for trial of former officials whom he accused of corruption and mismanagement.

Faysal bin-Jazi called for continued support for the Armed Forces and security departments.

Ahmad al-Kafawin referred to the budget as "traditional" and said it fell "short of tackling the problems of poverty and consolidating the socio-economic structure."

Dhuqan al-Hindawi criticised the Financial Committee's report for not specifying the roots and causes of the economic problem. He said: "We would have thought that the committee would explain the reasons for unemployment and the cost of living and propose solutions."

"We have to reconsider how we pay these debts," said deputy Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, who said the Kingdom should study the idea of renegotiating the austerity plan it worked out last year with the IMF.

The committee complained that about one-third of government spending is outside parliamentary control, in the hands of universities and public corporations. It urged lawmakers to pass measures correcting that situation.

'Isa al-Raymuni said the deputies should form a committee to visit Arab states "to brief them on the Jordanian situation and to obtain financial assistance to Jordan suitable to the size of the problem we are suffering from."

The Finance Committee expressed thanks to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Dubai and Qatar for donating millions of dollars to the Kingdom in recent years.

"These debts have broken our economic back," complained Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi. He suggested Jordan should seek debt forgiveness from lenders, citing a French proposal to write off many Third World debts.

Soviets Reportedly To Set Up Listening Post

NC2701160090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Paris, 27 Jan (MENA)—Press reports here have indicated that Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has approved a Soviet request to set up an extremely advanced listening [tasannut] station on the summit of the al-Baruq mountain in the al-Shuf area.

Reporting this in its weekly edition, the French magazine LE POINT said that the station's range of operation will cover an area extending from Iran to the Arabian Peninsula and from Morocco to Turkey.

Ministry Source Denies Change in U.S. Policy

NC2701135090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Statement issued by a Foreign Ministry "official source" on 27 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Some circles are trying to claim there has been a change in U.S. policy toward the legitimate Lebanese authority, maintaining this policy better takes into account the partitionist movement led by former army commander Michel 'Awn. All contacts established and all official reports received by the U.S. State Department [as heard], however, confirm such reports are groundless and U.S. policy supporting the legitimate authority represented by the president of the Republic and the national accord government has not changed.

Interior Minister Al-Khazin Interviewed

PM2601104090 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Jan 90 p13

[Interview with Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin by Muwaffaq Madani Daftardar in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Daftardar] A month and a half after the formation of the cabinet, what have you achieved?

[Al-Khazin] We have achieved many things, and we have proved that we are a legitimate government, present on the ground and representing the Lebanese people. We have established some kind of security and have begun to mend the state's structure. There have also been new diplomatic and administrative appointments.

[Daftardar] But your steps are noticeably very slow.

[Al-Khazin] We study our decisions well before making them, which is better if you are to achieve results, especially as the situation in the country is abnormal.

[Daftardar] Some people expected a military settlement, but that has not happened. Will there be a decisive action that will take President al-Hirawi to B'abda Palace?

[Al-Khazin] Settlement by military action is out of the question. We are using all means to achieve positive results, both at the political level and at the level of administrative steps needed to solve a difficult problem.

[Daftardar] How long will the mutiny in the eastern area continue?

[Al-Khazin] It will not be for long. The end is near.

[Daftardar] Do you believe that the administrative decisions made by the government are capable of ending the current state of affairs in the eastern area?

[Al-Khazin] We are not dictators. We work in every possible way to ensure justice for every Lebanese who believes in a united Lebanon.

[Daftardar] What do you think of the federation plan recently proposed by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'?

[Al-Khazin] I believe that what Dr Ja'ja' said fits into the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement, which speaks of political decentralization and expanded decentralization.

[Daftardar] Are you currently in contact with the Arab Higher Committee leaders?

[Al-Khazin] We are constantly in contact with the tripartite ministerial committee and its representative, Lakhdar Ibrahimi. They are optimistic.

[Daftardar] Are there any European-Vatican mediations at present between the eastern area and the Lebanese Government?

[Al-Khazin] We have heard that there are, and we have heard that a French delegation would mediate between us and the eastern area, but I believe that the government would not agree to any further mediations.

[Daftardar] Do you believe the Vatican's position is clear and frank?

[Al-Khazin] The Vatican deals basically with spiritual issues. It has recognized the legitimacy of President al-Hiwari and Prime Minister al-Huss' government.

[Daftardar] How do you view General Michel 'Awn's position after the funds case reported in France recently? Will that make him less popular?

[Al-Khazin] Naturally, when someone does something wrong people hate him.

[Daftardar] How true are the reports about the detention of a number of Lebanese officers by Gen 'Awn in the eastern area?

[Al-Khazin] These reports are true, and they are high-ranking officers.

[Daftardar] What will ultimately become of 'Awn?

[Al-Khazin] 'Awn knows very well where he is going, but the people with him do not know where they are going.

[Daftardar] Will the contact lines skirmishes lead to a large-scale security explosion?

[Al-Khazin] The skirmishes are limited and there will be no security explosion, because there is no political decision to cause a military explosion.

[Daftardar] Are there any differences within the government?

[Al-Khazin] No, we understand one another. The decisions made by the cabinet are approved by all.

[Daftardar] You have announced that you have some information regarding the assassination of former President Rene Mu'awwad. Is there anything new regarding that case?

[Al-Khazin] We have no information. We have some remote leads which could lead us to the culprits. The security organs are working on these leads.

[Daftardar] How true are the press reports that claim that the explosive device was planted in the telephone set inside President Mu'awwad's car?

[Al-Khazin] As interior minister, I am supposed to get all the information pertaining to the investigation. So far, nobody has told me any such information. I would therefore judge the reports unreliable.

[Daftardar] What is the latest on the new passports?

[Al-Khazin] The new Lebanese passports will be ready for use within the next 4 weeks.

[Daftardar] How will the eastern area be treated in that respect?

[Al-Khazin] I believe all citizens are equal. The current passports will not be valid internationally.

[Daftardar] What is status of the Internal Security Forces at present? Are they capable of maintaining security?

[Al-Khazin] The security forces need rebuilding, because there are shortages of men and equipment. We are now trying to provide the material means to secure the equipment and in the near future we will enlist volunteers for the security forces and we will receive anyone with the necessary qualifications.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Interviewed

PM2601113290 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 26 Jan 90 pp 20-21

[Interview with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Muna Khuways in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: General 'Awn has urged the Lebanese to meet to negotiate and discuss a way out of the crisis. Do you plan to sit down with him at the same negotiating table if the situation remains the same?

Al-Husayni: In fact an important question must be clarified here, namely, the need to avoid "smart tricks" and detours and evasions in national issues, because that will lead to further losses, ruin, and destruction. Everyone knows that despite the attempts to to prevent us from holding the presidential elections in August and September 1988 and despite the war which General 'Awn started against the Lebanese on 14 March 1989, an Arab summit supported at the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels was held in Casablanca and adopted resolutions to resolve the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Now that some are talking about a dialogue and a round table, it is an attempt to evade the dialogue which took place in Al-Ta'if and to evade and circumvent the accord to be achieved via that road—a profound disloyalty acceptable to no one. We accepted simultaneity, as did everyone else, and the president of the republic was elected and the government was composed on that basis. So any change or amendment to the national accord document is impermissible and improper. As for the dialogue question, we always maintain that dialogue in Lebanon is part of the nature of Lebanon's existence. So as there is in Lebanon a formula which we regard as a national asset—since Lebanon achieved Christian-Muslim coexistence within one family, one people, one homeland, one history, one heritage, and one language—a permanent Christian Muslim dialogue was established. Dialogue in Lebanon is an institution, and the institution is permanent. The dialogue is continuing on the state, on the national accord, and on how to maintain national unity.

AL-HAWADITH: All the measures and political and economic mediations used to put pressure on General 'Awn have produced no results yet. On the contrary, they have toughened his position. So what means will be used now and in the future, given the international unanimity that force should not be used to extend legitimate authority over the B'abda Palace?

Al-Husayni: I personally do not support the legitimacy of buildings. And when General 'Awn seizes the presidential palace in B'abda to grant himself legitimacy, or when former Foreign Ministry General Secretary Faruq Abi-al-Lam' seizes the Foreign Ministry building to grant himself legitimacy, this is a legitimacy of buildings which is of no value. The true legitimacy is that of the state and the people.

AL-HAWADITH: But we cannot ignore General 'Awn's presence as the only obstacle to the extension of the state's authority.

Al-Husayni: General 'Awn conducted an abortive putschist action. He could not control Lebanese territory, so he seized an area. He is now protecting his rebellion through the residents of that area. Undoubtedly, as we have recovered our constitutional institutions on firm

foundations stipulated in the national accord document—starting with the election of a new president of the republic and the formation of a legitimate government which gained parliament's unanimous confidence—that legitimacy must make its preparations and possess the coercive force necessary for every regime and every state. That coercive force, represented by the Lebanese Army, internal security forces, and the Lebanese legitimate forces, must be used against those who are trying to prevent Lebanon from returning to its normal status. Obviously, laws and regulations stipulate how any rebellion or disobedience against state authority can be eliminated. Their objective is to protect people. For example, when a court sentences a criminal to death, the use of force to execute that criminal is in the interests of society's security. That is the duty of every state and every regime, because of our situation and because we want to extricate ourselves from the crisis and move from an atmosphere of war to one of peace in order to strengthen our national unity. So, when a friendly or fraternal state asks the legitimate authority to exhaust the peaceful means first and open the door to peace endeavors to eliminate that rebellion, it is natural for that authority to exhaust the peaceful means first. This is because Lebanon has suffered a hemorrhage and it is every responsible person to avoid further bloodshed. But once these means have been exhausted, any reluctance to use force to eliminate that rebellion would be tantamount to high treason against the people and the homeland.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the proposal from Dr Ja'ja' regarding federalism as a way out of the crisis? Why did you reject it? And what would be the alternative if the Al-Ta'if agreement proves unsuccessful?

Al-Husayni: There is Christian-Muslim unanimity on the Al-Ta'if document. The former army commander's rebellion against legitimacy and the atmosphere of terror imposed on the eastern area, the distortion of the facts, and the attempt to tell the people in the eastern area that the Al-Ta'if document harms them—all this is untrue. We are in contact with all the Christian and Muslim leaderships and know that the overwhelming majority of Lebanese want a way out of the predicament and an end to the war. They are for Lebanon's unity and sovereignty over its entire territory.

These matters do not need evidence, and the real referendum can be conducted after Lebanese authority is extended over the territory and after the Lebanese have been able to hold parliamentary elections in a proper atmosphere of freedom. Then we would accept whatever verdict the people issue. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: When President al-Hirawi assumed power, he requested that all the militias be disbanded. Why has a start not been made on implementing this, especially as most militia leaders are members of the national accord government?

Al-Husayni: In fact, according to the Al-Ta'if agreement, after reforms are constitutionally endorsed, the government must draw up—as it is in the process of doing—a 1-year security plan and then announce within 6 months the disbandment of all the militias, collect arms, and restore state authority over the whole of Lebanese territory. This is clearly stipulated in the national accord document. And we are in the process of completing the steps which will enable us to achieve that result. [passage omitted]

Arab Summit on Lebanon Likely Mid-Feb in Cairo

NC2701112090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut, AFP reports an Arab summit is likely to be conducted in Cairo in mid-February at the request of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon. The sources said the summit will discuss the situation in Lebanon and developments in the Arab states.

Al-Tufayli Urges Implementing Damascus Accord

NC2801202990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has announced he welcomes deployment of Lebanese Army units in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said: We will not discuss anything other than the Damascus accord, and we seek speedy implementation of it.

Hizballah Command member Shaykh Zuhayr Kanj meanwhile said during a ceremony today this frivolous war must end, and the Amal Movement and Hizballah should sit at the negotiating table.

Guarded calm now prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah, while Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher continues efforts to consolidate the cease-fire and normalize the situation.

Shiite Fighting Continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2701172290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal-Hizballah fighting continues to rage along the combat lines of Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, tension is simmering in the Southern Suburb amid a state of alert and reciprocal kidnappings in West Beirut.

According to reports from the south, Amal personnel raided a number of Hizballah members' houses in Haruf and Tyre. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met with Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher this afternoon. The talks dealt with the latest developments in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Amal Says Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC2701202490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that a cease-fire agreement has been reached in Iqlim al-Tuffah as a result of mediation efforts by Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher. The Amal Movement said that it has been abiding by the agreement as of 1400 today.

Amal Declares Continuing To Observe Cease-fire

NC2801081090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal Movement has declared in Beirut it agrees to abide by a cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah, a result of Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher's mediation. The movement said it respected the cease-fire as of 1400 yesterday.

Remember Hizballah has observed the cease-fire since the start of Iranian envoy Brother Mohammad 'Ali Besharati's initiative.

Israeli Officer Reported Killed in Amal Attack

NC2701125590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In the resisting South, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal detonated an explosive charge and landmines under an Israeli occupation army patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road yesterday afternoon, damaging a vehicle and killing an Israeli officer. Consequently, the enemy's forces brought in reinforcements in the form of troops and vehicles to the area, which they shelled and raked with gunfire in an indiscriminate manner.

A second Amal group detonated another explosive device under an enemy army pesonnel carrier last evening, causing damage to it. The extent of the casualties has not been determined because of bad weather.

Al-Tufayli on Security Plan, Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2901104290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, has reiterated Hizballah's willingness to implement the Damascus agreement to end the strife. He called on the Amal Movement to straightforwardly implement that agreement.

Speaking at a memorial service conducted in Hayy al-Sullam marking the 40th day since Shaykh 'Isam Shamas' death, Al-Tufayli said Hizballah approves of the security plan, which will safeguard the citizens' security and dignity.

Al-Tufayli recalled Hizballah has opposed the al-Ta'if agreement because that agreement preserves the Maronite community's privileges. He said the people should be allowed to decide which system of government they prefer.

Al-Tufayli said Islam is the doctrine to which we are loyal, adding Hizballah is the only party defending the citizens' freedom and dignity.

Al-Tufayli lashed out at those who claim the Arab identity in the south is being compromised. He asked: Where were these people when the mujahidin were blowing their own bodies apart to turn the Zionists into ashes? Where were these people when the hills and valleys were covered with mujahidin blood?

Al-Tufayli noted fighters from several parties, including militiamen loyal to [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Elie Hubayqah, have entered Iqlim al-Tuffah. He warned these forces eventually may become spearheads for 'Awn and agent Antoine Lahd in the south.

Commenting on proposed solutions for stopping the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah, Al-Tufayli noted Hizballah accepted deployment of the Army in that area. The Amal Movement, thinking we would not agree to it, was taken aback by our acceptance and quickly withdrew its proposals regarding this, Al-Tufayli said.

Mountain Area Comes Under Fire 27 Jan

NC2701104090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] We have just learned that the Kayfun area is coming under mortar and heavy-caliber machinegun fire from positions of the al-Yarzah army gangs in Suq al-Gharb.

Car Bomb Explodes Near Home of Shiite Leader

NC2701064790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] An explosive charge placed in a car parked on the street where the Lebanon television station is located in Tallat al-Khayyat [in West Beirut] went off at 0630 today, causing material damage.

According to security sources, the explosion occured at a short distance from the home of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, and a Syrian checkpoint.

Further on Car Bomb

NC2701105690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] A security source has disclosed that the driver of the car which exploded in the Tallat al-Khayyat area this morning had tried to take the road leading to the home of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council. The

driver ran away, leaving the car still moving along the road leading to Shams al-Din's home. The car hit some obstacles on the road and exploded, causing serious damage to nearby houses and cars.

A military expert estimated that the device in the booby-trapped car contained 25 kg of highly explosive material.

Shaykh Shams al-Din received calls condemning this incident from Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Health Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan. Finance Minister Dr 'Adil Khalil as well as other political and military figures visited Shaykh Shams al-Din to denounce the incident.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian 'Intelligence Post'

NC2801124990 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Nationalist Front [al-Jabhah al-Islamiyah al-Wataniyah] today claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian intelligence post near the Palmera Hotel in Ba'labakk. According to a statement issued today, the Front launched an attack against a Syrian intelligence post at midnight 27 January. Several incendiary bombs hit the post. Due to the tight security cordon, casualties could not be determined.

Clashes Reported Along Beirut Combat lines

NC2801124490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Clashes involving machineguns and rockets occurred on the Ra's al-Nab', Primo, Sodeco, and al-Barbir combat lines at noon today. Several shells fell on areas adjacent to the combat lines, but no casualties have been reported. The situation calmed down later, and the museum crossing point was not affected.

Further on Clashes

NC2701215690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2148 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The security situation was disturbed tonight on the Ra's al-Nab', Primo, and al-Barjawi combat lines. Rockets and machinegun fire were exchanged between Lebanese Army positions and armed positions facing them. Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under rocket and machinegun fire at approximately 2115 today.

Radio Says Israeli Troops Along Border on Alert

NC2801131990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Excerpt] A state of alert was declared today for Israeli troops along the entire Israeli-Lebanese border because of increasing anti-Israel operations. The Israeli Army since morning has intensified its patrols throughout the border zone. According to some sources, the Israeli measures follow detonation of two landmines under a tank and a tank trailer on Friday, in which an Israeli officer and two soldiers were wounded, as well as similar incidents and infiltrations into the security belt zone. [passage omitted]

Army Positions in Suq al-Gharb Come Under Fire

NC2801195490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb at about 2030 today came under anti-armor and machinegun fire from opposite armed positions.

2 'Awn Loyalists Said Abducted in East Beirut

NC2901062090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Al-Dikwanah in East Beirut is tense after two military men loyal to the rebel officer Michel 'Awn were kidnapped. 'Awn's forces set up roadblocks and arrested several citizens in retaliation.

Fatah Officer Escapes 'Assassination' in Tyre

NC2901071890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Lieutenant Ghassan Muflih 'Awad, a Fatah Navy officer, escaped assassination when an explosive charge was detonated under his Mercedes in al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. The car was destroyed by the blast, and a state of alert was declared in the camp.

'Awn Calls West Beirut Security Plan 'Ploy'

NC2901072490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has described the West Beirut security plan as a ploy. He said the Syrian occupation will not move a single centimeter, because in the area it controls, Syria does not want any Lebanese force—even a militia—that might demand its rights to territory or existence, or might call for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Gen 'Awn hoped the talk about the policy change, particularly U.S. policy, would not endorse the acts of the occupation's government.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Urges Uprising of Soviet Muslims

BK2801055890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 28 (AFP)—Mujahidin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has called on Moslem "brothers" in the Central Asian Soviet Republics to rise up against Soviet rule.

Moslems in the Transcaucasian republics should "win their freedom as soon as possible," Cmdr. Mas'ud said in a statement in Farsi received here Sunday [28 January]. "We hope our brothers living on the other side of the Amu Darya," the river dividing Afghanistan from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and part of Turkmenistan, "will unleash a fight against Soviet domination," he said.

Denouncing "interference by the Red Army in Azerbaijan territory," the Afghan rebel chief said he planned to begin radio broadcasts that he hoped would be picked up in Tajikistan. The new radio station is to be called "Hindu Kush," the name of the mountains northeast of Afghanistan, and is to be controlled by the Northern Council, a politico-military structure led by Cmdr. Mas'ud.

The 38-year-old commander is an ethnic Tajik who earned the nickname of the "Lion of Panjsher" for his successes against the Red Army. His influence extends through several Afghan provinces along the Soviet border.

"We call on the grace of Allah to help and save the people of Azerbaijan," he said, stressing "the legitimacy of the liberation movement" in Transcaucasia.

Mas'ud: 100 Soldiers Killed in Convoy Attack

BK2901100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text) Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 29 (AFP)—At least 100 Afghan soldiers were killed last week during a sabotage operation which destroyed a convoy of Soviet arms including rocket launchers, resistance leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has claimed. "Our brothers with whom we were in contact hid explosives in the rocket launchers," said Mr. Mas'ud who directed the operation he said involved government soldiers as well as Muslim resistance fighters.

In a message received here Monday, Mr. Mas'ud said 120 transport vehicles destined for the Kabul regime were burned Thursday following a series of explosions as the convoy from the Soviet Union reached Qal'eh-ye Sorkh base near Jabal os Saraj some 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Kabul.

Most of the vehicles had been earmarked for the Defense Ministry's Logistics Division while others were going to the Ministry of Commerce, he said.

Mr. Mas'ud is the president of the Northern Council, the rebel political and military structure with influence in several northern Afghan provinces.

He described the operation as "one of the biggest" since the start of the Afghan conflict 10 years ago.

The Soviet-backed Afghan government of President Najibullah has so far not commented on the attack, but paramilitary sources in Kabul Saturday confirmed that a convoy of military vehicles from the Soviet Union had been attacked along the Salang Highway near Jabal os Saraj.

The sources in Kabul said a single rocket had destroyed the entire convoy after it set off a freak chain reaction among the tightly bunched trucks and military vehicles.

Although the Soviet Union pulled the last of its troops out of Afghanistan nearly one year ago after a 10-year occupation, it still provides military aid to the Kabul regime estimated by U.S. intelligence at three to four billion dollars a year. Washington and Saudi Arabia each give the Muslim rebels about 600 million dollars in military aid annually.

On Sunday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said that a political solution in Afghanistan was "literally knocking on the door."

Soon after, a senior member of the Afghan Politburo, Najmuddin Kawiani, said he thought Moscow and Washington could be close to an agreement on reducing military aid to the warring Afghan parties. But such an agreement has already drawn sharp criticism from the Afghan resistance here in Peshawar, where many of the mujahidin rebel groups are headquartered.

Rebel sources stress the current "imbalance" in the arms levels of both forces and warn Washington to be prepared for a "Soviet bluff," adding that Moscow and Kabul are linked by several defense treaties.

Politburo Member on Cuts in U.S., Soviet Arms

BK2901004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 28 Jan 90

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 28 (AFP)—A senior member of Afghan President Najibullah's Politburo said Sunday [28 January] he had the impression that Moscow and Washington might be close to agreement on a mutual arms reduction to the warring Afghan sides.

"Yes, we have the same impression," said Najmuddin Kawiani, when asked if he thought the superpowers were likely to agree on a weapons-supply cutback at a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow February 6-7. (Mr. Shevardnadze said in an interview with an international news agency in Moscow, published

Sunday, that a political settlement to the Afghan war was "literally knocking on the door.")

Mr. Kawiani, generally considered the third most-powerful member of President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), also said he thought it was possible that an agreement on arms reductions could come into force ahead of peace talks. "That, on its own, can be a beginning (in the search for peace)," Mr. Kawiani said in an interview here.

A cut in weapons supplied by the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to the mujahidin resistance, and a simultaneous cutback by Moscow to the Najibullah regime was thought to be essential for a ceasefire and the beginning of peace talks, observers here said.

"We are mentally prepared (for a mutual reduction)," Mr. Kawiani said. The Soviet-backed Afghan regime receives aid worth an estimated 200 million-300 million U.S. dollars from Moscow every month.

Mr. Kawiani made his comments after members of a high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation had told reporters here Saturday that continued Soviet aid to Afghanistan was in the context of a search for a political solution.

A leading member of the 10-man delegation, Valeriy Nikolayevich Ochirov, told U.S. journalists after the press conference that he believed a breakthrough on negative symmetry (mutual reduction) was near. He also said it was one of the topics the Soviet delegates had discussed with Afghan leaders, both military and civilian, during their week-long visit here scheduled to end Monday.

Mr. Ochirov, deputy chief of the Supreme Soviet Commission on Defence and Security, as well as an Afghan war veteran, said that Moscow's position was "not one of supporting a particular regime," but of supporting a state.

The main stumbling block to Washington's agreeing to urge the mujahidin towards talks has been the the mujahidin's insistence that Mr. Najibullah was a "Soviet-installed puppet" and must be removed before peace talks can begin.

"We have not been told or informed (of imminent joint reductions), but we are optimistic," Mr. Kawiani said in the interview Sunday.

He said that both the Soviet Union and President Najibullah had long espoused the negative-symmetry formula, which was first proposed and then dropped by Washington at the time of signing the 1988 Geneva accords.

Mr. Kawiani said he felt that Washington had erred in failing to persuade the seven-party resistance alliance, based in Pakistan, to negotiate immediately after the Soviet troop pullout a year ago. "They had a great chance of winning then," he said in a rare admission of government qualms at the time of the February 15, 1989 troop withdrawal. "Things would have changed in their favour. Then the mujahidin had a patriotic image (of fighting against a foreign invader)," he said.

He said he felt the mujahidin had now lost their lustre and were seen as fighters without a cause or a political leadership, but hastened to add that his own party had become isolated from the people.

Mr. Kawiani, who is on the PDPA Secretariat and is in charge of the party's (as opposed to the government's) foreign relations, also said he had seen indications of a change in the U.S negotiating position.

He said U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Kimmitt, during his visits to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia this month, had not emphasised a military solution, and he described Mr. Kimmitt's statements of support for the mujahidin as delivered with a kind of "hopelessness." "There is still an amount of military pressure. But they (Washington) are trying to find a political solution," he said. But he warned that if a mutual arms reduction were to occur, it must apply to all parties involved, including Saudi Arabia, which reportedly matches Washington dollar-for-dollar on aid to the mujahidin.

China and Iran, which formerly supplied weapons to the mujahidin, have distanced themselves since the Soviet troop withdrawal.

Diplomats and other foreign observers here, as well as the few remaining Afghan intellectuals who did not flee to the West during the Soviet occupation, have said they felt that a weapons cutback would reduce the scale of agony in the Afghan war, even without a peace agreement or talks.

They referred to the use by government troops of devastating Soviet-supplied Scud and Frog missiles, as well as aerial bombing and artillery. On the mujahidin side, they pointed to the use of Stinger missiles, lethal anti-personnel rockets and mortars, which have caused more casualties in Afghanistan than ever before.

Mr. Kawiani stressed that the Najibullah government had always related an arms reduction to a simultaneous ceasefire, an apparent reference to the fact that most of the active fighting was currently concentrated in the provinces bordering Pakistan, where the mujahidin's bases are.

It is in those areas that Kabul's air supremacy has given it a decisive edge on the eastern battlefields and cities, which the mujahidin tried to take after the Soviet pullout.

Former Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, Yuliy Vorontsov, said last July that bombs would be included in any arms-reduction agreement.

Mr. Kawiani repeated Mr. Najibullah's assurance, given at a press conference last week, that the mujahidin would

be left in charge of areas they currently control. Mr. Najibullah also said at the same news conference that—in the event of peace talks and eventual elections, supervised by the United Nations and conducted by an interim government—a national army composed of mujahidin and government troops could be formed, "but only as a last resort."

Soviet Legislative Delegation Continues Visit

Meets With Deputy Prime Minister

LD2601201190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Economic Consultative Council of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with the Soviet legislative delegation headed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union, this afternoon at Gol Khanah Palace of the Council of Ministers. A number of Economic Consultative Council members and officials from the private sector took part in the meeting.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister talked about the role of the private sector in the economy and the government's encouragement and support for this sector, as well as the role of the private sector in the national income. He explained how the activity of this sector expanded after the declaration of the national reconciliation policy.

The guests were also briefed on the creation of productive and service establishments using Soviet credit and the increased export activity between both countries and development of [word indistinct] exports. He thanked the Soviet Union for its assistance in both the state and private sectors.

Confers With Interior Minister

LD2601202990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The delegation from the Soviet legislature headed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union, met today with Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, interior minister, and officials from the Interior Ministry. The Soviet delegation also visited a number of units and sectors of that ministry. Accompanied by the interior minister, the Soviet delegation visited the dispatch and control center of the Interior Ministry's operational department. They also laid a wreath at the memorial to martyrs on the revolution's path.

According to another report, the Soviet delegation, accompanied by the interior minister and a number of generals, visited the various units of the Sarandoy Infantry and viewed the weapons and ammunition seized from extremist groups in the course of mopping up operations.

The delegation also visited the guard unit of power cable [as heard] and presented gifts to a number of soldiers and officers of that unit. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports the Soviet delegation went to the 200-bed Sarandoy hospital and visited patients and presented gifts to a number of them.

'Sudden Escalation' in Kabul Fighting Noted

BK2701133890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of a sudden escalation of fighting between mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in a number of sensitive regions around Kabul during the past several days. The mujahidin are reported to have stepped up attacks on the military convoys and army concentrations of the regime, resulting in considerable human and material losses to the Kabul forces in these areas.

According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], on Tuesday [23 Jan] last, the mujahidin attacked Kabul forces at Pol-e Qandahari area, killing 11 military personnel. They also stopped a military convoy which was on its way to Lowgar from Kabul. The agency says the mujahidin recaptured the strategic (Elejah) area following a brief battle with the Kabul forces and also carried out intensive operations against the regime forces in (?Ghazni) as well.

Mujahidin Offensives in Parvan, Konduz Detailed

BK2801142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say there is intense fighting between Kabul regime forces and the mujahidin in various parts of the country. The news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports the mujahidin launched rocket and missile attacks on Bagram airport in Parvan Province, damaging two jet fighters and an ammunition dump.

Meanwhile, in another operation, the mujahidin killed five members of the Kabul militia and injured seven in the (Sher-i-Khas) area of Konduz Province.

India

Gujral Briefs International Community on Kashmir

BK2701161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] India has started briefing the international community about the real situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan's attempt to create trouble in the state. It has sought the help of the United States and China in keeping the environment in the subcontinent friendly in view of Pakistan's interference in India's border states.

The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, told the Chinese ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Tu Guowei, that Beijing must help in this regard, keeping in view the changed climate in Sino-Indian relations.

During his meeting with the U.S. assistant secretary of defense, Mr Henry Rowen, Mr Gujral emphasized that India would not allow disintegration of the country under any circumstances, and Pakistan must desist from helping fundamentalism and terrorism in the Indian territory. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told our newsmen that Mr Rowen agreed with the Indian point of view and said he would convey the message to Pakistan.

Arab envoys in New Delhi and EEC ambassadors have already been briefed. Many Indian envoys are going abroad to explain India's stand.

In the recently concluded parliamentary consultative committee meeting in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Gujral informed members that for the first time during Mr Yaqub Khan's recent visit, Islamabad sought to justify its interference in Kashmir by hinting that provisions of the Simla Agreement were no longer operative. Members were of the unanimous view that a unified and clear message should be given to Pakistan regarding India's resolve to protect its integrity. Various Muslim organizations and political parties have urged the government to ensure that Pakistan is not allowed to exploit the situation in Kashmir.

A nine-point resolution adopted at a meeting held in New Delhi today has asked Pakistan to desist from interfering in the internal affairs of India. Among the parties and organizations which attended the meeting were Muslim Majlis, Majlis Ittehadul Muslemin, All India Muslim Youth Convention, Qaumi Morcha, United Muslim Minorities Front of Assam, and All India Muslim Personal Law Conference.

Views Pakistani 'Ultimatum'

BK2701170690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] India has launched a concerted diplomatic initiative to counter the disinformation campaign orchestrated by Pakistan on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, briefed the consultative committee of his ministry on the Indian response to the stand taken by Pakistan on the issue. At the end of a meeting that was devoted entirely to Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir, the committee adopted a unanimous resolution which stated that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. It also said that any interference from any quarters whatsoever in India's internal affairs would not be tolerated.

Briefing members on his discussions with Mr Abdus Sattar [special envoy for Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto] and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Mr Gujral noted a qualitative difference in Pakistan's approach to the Kashmir situation. It was pointed out that whereas earlier they used to deny Indian allegations of interference, this time there were attempts at justification through hints that the Simla Agreement was no longer operative and the people of Jammu and Kashmir were inseparably linked to the people of occupied Kashmir and Pakistan. India remains committed to the Simla agreement in letter and spirit.

In a firm response, India conveyed in unmistakable terms that there was no way in which it would allow Jammu and Kashmir to secede. Mr Yaqub Khan's repeated reference to dark clouds hanging over Jammu and Kashmir was no slip of the tongue, but deliberate and amounting to almost an ultimatum.

Detailing the diplomatic moves, Mr Gujral referred to his meetings with the Arab and EEC ambassadors in the capital. The message was that Pakistan's fishing in troubled waters would not succeed.

The foreign secretary has left for Moscow for talks in which Kashmir is expected to figure prominently.

Mr Muchkund Dubey [External Affairs Ministry official] will leave shortly for Kuwait, the headquarters of the Islamic Conference, and Baghdad on a similar mission.

In a recent meeting, Mr Gujral spoke to the Chinese ambassador on the need to keep the atmosphere in the subcontinent friendly in view of the changed Sino-Indian relations.

At a meeting earlier, the U.S. under secretary of state, Mr Rowen, expressed deep concern at the deteriorating Indo-Pak relations. He was told that India wants peace but is anguished by Pakistan's confrontationist mood. It was hoped that U.S. as a major power interested in the region will respond to the call for peace and tranquillity.

Vajpayee: Pakistan 'Playing a Dangerous Game'

BK2901031990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to be peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the valley for the last 4 days. Following an improvement in the situation, the curfew in Srinagar City has been relaxed for 7 hours from 0500 this morning. As already reported, the curfew has been completely lifted from Magam, Badgam, (Chandora), (Bherwa), and Bandipura towns. Patrolling by paramilitary forces is however continuing.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has asked Pakistan to desist from internationalizing the Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad yesterday, he said any such move will provide India with an opportunity to demand the withdrawal of Pakistani forces from that part of Kashmir which has been illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan.

Mr Vajpayee alleged that the Pakistani Government is playing a dangerous game by fanning flames of fundamentalism in the Kashmir Valley because such attempts are bound to engulf Pakistan itself.

Asks Pakistan To 'Desist'

BK2901075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has warned Pakistan and asked that country to desist from internationalizing the Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad last night, Mr Vajpayee said that the Kashmir problem is not a Hindu-Muslim issue but a question of the country's integrity and security. He said India does not want war, but if a war is forced on it, then a befitting reply would be given to the invaders.

Mr Vajpayee blamed the Congress-I for the present situation in the valley, alleging that antinational elements have been indulging in arson and looting for the past 2 years.

The BJP leader alleged that Islamabad is playing a dangerous game by fanning flames of fundamentalism in the Kashmir Valley, and such attempts will ultimately engulf Pakistan itself.

BJP Urges 'Drastic Action' Against Pakistan

BK2701160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has appealed for postponement of all actions and plans on the Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [shrine in Uttar Pradesh claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue by any of the protagonists in the national interest. Addressing a joint news conference in New Delhi today, the party leaders, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr Yaswant Singh, said this is necessary in view of the prevailing situation in the Kashmir Valley. They urged all parties, including the Congress-I, not to politicize the situation in the border state but to stand unitedly for a purposeful national action.

The two BJP leaders pointed out that the disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir are largely a result of incitement and assistance from outside.

Mr Vajpayee criticized the recent statements of the Pakistan prime minister. He wanted the government to take drastic action to foil any attempts by Pakistan to dismember India by violating the actual line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP Workers Demonstrate Outside Pakistani Embassy

BK2701132690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha [Bharatiya Janata Party Youth Front] workers staged a demonstration outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi today. They were protesting against Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of India in Jammu and Kashmir. In a memorandum to the high commissioner, the Morcha workers said Pakistan's action posed a grave threat to the peace and security of the region.

Congress-I Criticizes Iran for 'Interfering'

BK2701161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] A Congress-I spokesman has criticized Iran for joining Pakistan in interfering in the internal affairs of India. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he urged the government to take a firm stand against Iran and not adopt a policy of appeasement toward that country.

Paper Reports Richard Haas Asia Society Address

BK2701090890 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 90 p 13

[Text] Washington, Jan 18 (IANS) [India Abroad News Service]—The U.S. wanted a more "developed set of consultations" with New Delhi on regional and global security "commensurate with India's growing role," according to a special assistant to President George Bush.

And U.S. Military assistance to India will be determined by India's foreign and defence policies, asserted Mr Richard Haas, special assistant to the President and senior director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council. It depended on India's "willingness to articulate a convincing and reassuring rationale for itself and its role in the region," he said.

Mr Haas, during a wide-ranging talk at the Asia Society in Washington, said the U.S. had no desire to exacerbate the rivalry between India and Pakistan, but in fact to improve relations between them. He quickly added that Washington had a "special relationship" with Islamabad. He sounded a warning however, that Pakistan's continued nuclear efforts "are troubling and raise concerns" here.

Washington, Mr Haas indicated, recognised India's primacy in the region, and wished to work with it to serve bilateral interests and those of people in South Asia. In this context, he referred to the sale of high technology equipment where the Bush administration would have to consider "the potential for compromise" between the two countries, but also the potential impact these advanced technologies would have on Indian military capabilities and the potential consequences of an increase in the reach and destructive power of these systems.

Former Kashmir Chief Minister Summoned To Delhi

BK2601145190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, police had to resort to firing yesterday to disperse a violent mob in the border town of Handwara. The mob set ablaze a hospital, an inspection bungalow, and a police vehicle. Nine persons were killed and some others injured. The situation in the town is under control.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has rushed to New Delhi following an urgent summons by the center. He reached the capital from Jammu this morning.

The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, visited the bereaved families of the four Indian Air Force personnel killed by subversives in Srinagar yesterday. He expressed his heartfelt condolences. He also visited the military hospital, where about a dozen personnel are being treated for injuries sustained in the incidents. Mr Jag Mohan assured all assistance to the bereaved families.

Meets Prime Minister Singh

BK2701150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, held an hour-long meeting with the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah, in New Delhi today. It is a part of the effort to take all parties into confidence in a move to restore normalcy in the valley. The discussions are also part of the center's preparations, now underway, for holding an all-party meeting to tackle the explosive situation in the border state.

Meanwhile, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has (?stated) that high priority is being given for restoration of peace in Kashmir. He told a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today that the state governor has been asked to deal with the situation firmly but tactfully. Already a number of measures have been taken to check the deteriorating situation. These include tightening of the administrative machinery, toning up of intelligence network, and deployment of additional paramilitary forces. The home minister said that timely action taken by the administration had thwarted the plans of the militants to defy authority and to capture vital installations on the Republic Day.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has appealed for postponement of all actions and plans on the Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [shrine in Uttar Pradesh claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue by any of the protagonists in the national interest. Addressing a joint news conference in New Delhi today, the party leaders—Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr Yaswant Singh—said this is necessary in view of the prevailing situation in the Kashmir Valley. They urged all parties, including the Congress-I, not to politicize the situation in the border state but stand unitedly for a purposeful national action.

Kashmir Valley Reportedly 'Peaceful' 27 Jan

BK2701090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The situation in the Kashmir Valley is peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the valley since yesterday. Curfew continues in Srinagar and a few other towns, with Army and paramilitary forces patrolling sensitive areas.

In a special message, the governor, Mr Jag Mohan, thanked the people for not falling prey to the subversives' tactics to cause disturbances on the Republic Day yesterday. He appealed to them to shed violence and fear and cooperate with the authorities for restoring normalcy.

Meanwhile, the governor's decision to institute rewards to those who provide information leading to detection of subversive elements has yielded encouraging results. He has further announced a reward of 1 lakh rupees for those persons whose information will help in smashing the subversive network in the state.

Authorities Expel 5 Foreign Newsmen From Kashmir

BK2701163490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1618 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Jan 27 (AFP)—Authorities Saturday [27 January] decided to expell foreign newsmen as army troops continued a house-to-house search for arms in three border towns of disturbed Kashmir.

The Indian foreign minister, quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), said that New Delhi had evidence of involvement of Afghan Moslem rebels based in Pakistan in the bloody Kashmiri Moslem separatist campaign.

Officials here said some three planeloads of paramilitary troopers were brought in to reinforce security forces across Kashmir overnight, though there was no information of any serious incidents Saturday.

Srinagar's district magistrate Saturday served an expulsion order on some five visiting Western media persons, the journalists involved said. The magistrate gave no reason for the decision against correspondents of UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL and CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR and photographers from TIME magazine, NEWSWEEK and AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The latest action came two days after all foreign journalists were ordered in writing to leave as early as possible in the "interest of their own safety and security," and the withrawal of their curfew passes which restriced their movements strictly to their hotel rooms since. Only curfew pass holders are allowed out.

Officials said all Indians working for the foreign media, and those who came from outside, were allowed to stay on.

Meanwhile, the Indian Home Ministry has ordered state authorities here to return exposed film seized from some of the foreign photographers here Friday, sources said.

A round-the-clock curfew enforced in Srinagar and a number of other towns across Moslem-dominated Kashmir Valley was relaxed for one hour Saturday afternoon.

Officials said there was no incident during the relaxation, which was decided upon after Jammu and Kashmir State Governor Jag Mohan reviewed the situation with aides earlier Saturday.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, according to PTI, told a meeting of his ministry's consultative committee of MPs [members of parliament] Thursday that Pakistan-based Afghan rebels were "fomenting" trouble in Kashmir with Kashmiri militants.

Soldiers in battle fatigues were looking for hidden arms and Moslem militants suspected to have crossed into Kashmir from Pakistan at Uri, Handwara and Trehgham towns, officials here said. All three towns are located on Kashmir's border with Pakistan, which New Delhi says backs Moslem militants in the northern state fighting to secede from the Indian union.

No details were available about arms recoveries, but officials said 13 "extremists", official jargon for pro-Pakistan Moslem separatists, had been arrested following the sweep which was still continuing.

Suspected Moslem rebels also exploded a bomb under a private mini-bus in Srinagar's Rawalpora District late Friday, damaging the vehicle but wounding no one, an official spokesman said.

Barring the bomb blast, the situation in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and 24 other Moslem-dominated towns across the Kashmir Valley was reported to be peaceful.

Handwara, where 24 people were killed in street battles between Moslem militants and their sympathisers and security forces Thursday, was also said to be calm.

Curfew was clamped in Srinagar about a week ago, shortly after Mr. Jag Mohan, who is known as a tough administrator, was appointed governor of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

The other places were brought under curfew subsequently following mass protests, forcing a Moslem religious leader to complain Friday that the Kashmir Valley was under virtual martial law.

More than 100 people have been unofficially reported killed and hundreds injured in violence linked to the Moslem militant campaign in Kashmir since the start of January.

Journalists here have been deprived of their curfew passes to prevent them from going out of their homes and hotels to report the situation.

An official spokesman said Mr. Jag Mohan was expected to hold a high-level meeting in Jammu, the state's winter capital, later Saturday to decide whether to continue the indefinite curfew that has crippled life in Moslem areas.

India and Pakistan dispute Jammu and Kashmir and have fought two of their three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 over the state, which was known as a tourist paradise until recently.

Pakistan, which controls the northern third of the state, has refuted allegations of arming Kashmiri militants, and has blamed "indigenous" reasons for the current disturbances in the picturesque valley.

Curfew Completely Lifted in 4 Kashmir Towns

BK2801092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been completely lifted from the four towns of Magam, Badgam, (Chatura), and (Burva). Day curfew has been lifted from Bandipur town. In Baramula, curfew was relaxed for 4 and ½ hours from 0700 this morning. However, no relaxation was given in other curfew-bound areas of Kashmir valley today. The 6-hour curfew relaxation period from 0500 this morning in Srinagar city passed off peacefully.

According to an official spokesman, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the valley and the situation remained by and large peaceful. In some parts of Srinagar city, shops were opened during the relaxation period and people were seen busy in purchasing essential commodities.

Hindu Group To Build Temple at Disputed Site

BK2801131290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP)—India's most influential Hindu group has decided to go ahead with its temple construction at a site disputed by Muslims, and has appealed to its members to prepare "sacrifice squads".

Newspapers Sunday reported that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Council, would begin building the shrine of Lord Ram in the northern holy town of Ayodhya on February 14 at an auspicious time of 3:07 p.m. (0937 GMT). The decision was taken Saturday by the council in the nearby city of Allahabad and

announced hours later by its General Secretary Ashok Singhal, THE TIMES OF INDIA and other newspapers here reported.

Mr. Singhal, an engineer-turned-Hindu activist, said the decision was "irrevocable" and that Hindu religious leaders had decided to resist the police if they were prevented from building the temple.

Muslims say the disputed site houses a 16th century mosque built by Moghul Emperor Babar, while Hindus say it is the birthplace of their Lord Ram and that the mosque was constructed after destroying a Hindu temple. Both views are challenged by historians, but the emotional dispute has divided the country's two major religious communities and sparked off dozens of bloody communal clashes that have left hundreds dead.

Mr. Singhal was quoted as saying that the council had asked its hundreds of branches across the Hindu-majority country to raise "sacrifice squads" and send them to Ayodhya to protect those who will do construction work. But he said that the mosque which stands at the disputed site would not be destroyed.

"It is not a Hindu tradition to destroy any place of worship," said the soft-spoken activist. "So we will lift the mosque from there and with devotion place it at a site chosen by Muslim leaders," THE TIMES reported.

There was no immediate reaction to the council's decision from the government or Muslims, who total an estimated 100 million out of the country's population of more than 850 million.

A religious leader of the minority Jain community, however, said he was confident that the issue would be resolved by negotiations before February 14 by leaders of the Hindu and Muslim communities. The leader, Saint Susheel Muni, who has been mediating between the two communities to avoid further violence over the controversy, spoke to reporters in Alahabad after Mr. Singhal's news conference, the times said.

Mr. Singhal later said: "The Acharyaji (Saint Muni) has till February 13 to convince our Muslim friends to give up all claims on this issue since for us it (temple construction) is an act of faith and not of semantics."

Hindu fundamentalists laid the foundation for the temple at Ayodhya on November 9 at a ceremony attended by thousands of frenzied Hindus who declared that the mosque should go.

Strike Call in Punjab; 'Terrorists' Kill Six

BK2701042490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the administration in all the districts has been asked to take special steps for the maintenance of law and order in view of the bundh [strike] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit group for today. The call has been given in protest against the killing of the federation general secretary, Mr Harminder Singh Sandhu, in Amritsar last Wednesday by two unidentified assailants. According to an official spokesman, the administration has been asked to ensured that the functioning of essential services is not affected and nobody is forced to close his business establishment anywhere in the state. He said the patrolling by security forces has been intensified and special pickets have been set up at all sensitive points.

Meanwhile, the district administration at many places have declared closed holiday for today in educational institutions in view of the participation of the students in the Republic Day celebrations yesterday. All the trains running on branch lines in Ferozepore division of the Northern Railway have been canceled for today. Railway sources in Amritsar said this has been done as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, terrorists have gunned down six persons, including a policeman, and seriously injured one in separate incidents since last evening.

'Overwhelming Response' to Strike

BK2701123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 27 (AFP)—A general strike called Saturday (27 January] to protest the slaying of a Sikh militant leader has crippled life in India's Punjab State, where Sikh separatists shot dead eight people overnight. Shops and businesses downed shutters and few vehicles were on the roads across the northern state during the daylong strike organised by the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The AISSF issued the strike call to condemn the murder early Wednesday of Harminder Singh Sandhu, its general secretary since 1978, by two unidentified men at his home in Punjab's holy city of Amritsar.

An AISSF spokesman told reporters in Amritsar that the strike received "overwhelming response everywhere in the state" and was a "complete" success and described Mr. Sandhu as a "great martyr."

A relative of Mr. Sandhu blamed "government agents" for the slaying, but four Sikh militant groups, including a rival faction of the AISSF, subsequently claimed responsibility for it, describing the AISSF leader as a traitor.

Mr. Sandhu, 35, a postgraduate in English and History, was released last month after five years in jail and was a strong advocate of the Sikh separatist campaign for a homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure.

PTI said most trains within Punjab were cancelled Saturday, while some important trains were moving under heavy security. Rail traffic was disrupted in Bhatinda District after a "bomb-like object" was recovered on a track.

Punjab's extensive transport network was also disrupted, with the few buses which plied their routes carrying fewer passengers, PTI said. No bus entered Punjab from any of the neighbouring states.

The strike was reportedly peaceful, the news agency said.

Saturday's strike got under way hours after Sikh separatists gunned down eight people, including a religious leader, in five separate incidents spread across Punjab late Friday, PTI said.

An unspecified number of gunmen shot dead a religious leader and his two associates when they were having dinner at their home 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the industrial town of Ludhiana.

A local Sikh leader of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party was dragged out of his house and gunned down in Amritsar District, police said. No details other were available.

Sikh militants also shot dead a village elder, a watchman at an arms store, and two villagers elsewhere.

Suspected Sikh separatists ambushed a Red Cross ambulance and wounded its driver in Amritsar City, PTI said. The cause of the attack was not known.

The latest killings took to more than 80 the number of people killed in the bloody Khalistan campaign since the start of January.

Strike Ends 'Peacefully'

BK2701161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] passed off peacefully today. The call for the bundh was given by All India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit Singh group in protest against the killing of Mr Harminder Singh Sandhu in Amritsar on Wednesday [24 January]. According to an official spokesman, one person was injured in the incident at Bhatinda. The response to the call was almost total. While business establishments were completely closed in the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepore, Bhatinda, Jullundur, Kapurthala, Ropar, and Sangrur, at other places some shops were closed. Essential services functioned normally.

Janata Dal Candidate Shot Dead in Manipur

BK2701125090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In Manipur, the Janata Dal candidate for Ukhrul reserved assembly seat, Mr (Lushin Shaiza), was shot dead this morning. Mr (Shaiza) was shot by underground extremists while he was addressing a public meeting at Ukhrul Town. He was rushed to the local hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Iran

Paper Views Gorbachev's Handling of Azerbaijan

LD2601175490 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 26, IRNA—Moscow must tackle the Azeri problem with "utmost care and diplomatic skill" in the context of its friendly ties with Iran, according to an Iranian daily.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in an article to be published in its Saturday issue further said that ranking officials both in Iran and the Soviet Union were well aware of West's plots aimed at straining the growing Tehran-Moscow ties.

"Minus the miscalculated move to send army units to crush the Azeri protests, it is fair to pay tribute to Mr. Gorbachev's declared policy aims to transform the communist superpower into a free and democratic institution," said the English daily.

It added that opponents of Gorbachev's reform were taking advantage of any chance to imply that perestroyka and glasnost were failing theories.

"The hardcore Communists in the Soviet Union and imperialistic agents united together to make the world public opinion believe that the Kremlin leader cannot control events inside the country without the use of force," it said.

Turning to the recent clashes in Baku between military and popular forces, the daily said that enemies tried to fan the flames of disputes by adding fuel to the fire through Western-Zionist news agencies.

Referring to unfounded reports on flow of arms to Azerbaijan by Iranians, the daily said the reports were aired at a time when Iranian leadership had requested Moscow to settle the problem peacefully.

Meanwhile, it said Iranian media's comments underlined concern on two tracks which were of importance to the security and prosperity of both countries: The absolute need to reasonably address the grievances of Soviet Muslims, and uphold cordial political and economic relations between Moscow and Tehran.

"The Kremlin rulers will have to pay attention to the point that reform should come for the entire country and not a special group, ethnic body or geographical region," said the article.

The daily warned that involving the military forces in the "deep-rooted religious and nationalistic sentiments" would be detrimental and would cause dangerous problems for the government.

"The Azeri incident unfortunately suggests that Moscow did not play its card well," said the daily. However it added that "although a tough future awaits the pioneer

of Soviet reform, there is reason to think that President Gorbachev will be more careful and reasonable in the coming weeks."

Editorial on 'Thorny Questions' for Gorbachev

NC2601122290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Gorbachev Leaves Many Questions Unanswered"]

[Text] Military forces dispatched in Moscow to quell the popular unrest in the Soviet Azerbaijan arrived in the republic via air and land last Friday.

Removing hurdles created by the people the military has engaged in severe clashes with popular forces in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Reports on the casualties vary, yet they are similar in one point—extensive loss of civilian life.

Since the announcement of Gorbachev's glasnost in 1985 it is the first time the Red Army has been unleashed to stifle a large ethnic group within the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics using bullets and tanks against human feasts [as published] and bodies.

To justify its harsh crackdown on the Azeris, Moscow is excusing itself under its responsibility to "protect civilian life." But resort to any principle is still relative as efforts to maintain peace and order does not have to necessarily be made through bloodshed.

Meanwhile, a set of thorny questions remains to be unanswered by the Soviet leadership and the person of President Gorbachev on the saddening events now unfolding in the Azerbaijan Republic.

Why did Moscow fail to first lunch peaceful moves to reduce tension and make chances of bloodshed slim before the situation "necessitated" use of force?

Gorbachev had displayed a lot of tolerance towards public grievances in other republics. For instance, the very same Mr. Gorbachev, took the trouble of personally visiting Lithuania, listening to people and virtually engaging himself in forums with the public right then and there on the streets some two weeks ago. By so doing Gorbachev only won more admiration for himself and political acumen in the world's public opinion. Why could he not "condescend" to do the same in Azerbaijan?

The winds of change in the Soviet Union is a reality. But what unseen hands were possible behind the ethnic confrontations that were suddenly fanned between Azeris and Armenians? After some 70 years of straight suppression of popular aspirations by the central government it seems rather unexpected and illogical that ethnic clashes should upsurge as extensive as they did between the two republics. Something sounds fishy here.

And why should the state-run IZVESTIYA daily suddenly came out of the blue with claims that Iran has supplied the Azeris with arms? Has there been any shortcoming at all on the part of Tehran as far as cooperation with Moscow to bring the situation under control is concerned? Tehran indeed has gone out of its way to help end the Azerbaijan crisis peacefully. The accusation is baseless and outrageous.

We will think the situation urgently calls for high-level connections, at foreign ministers level at least between Tehran and Moscow to prevent the Azerbaijan crisis from turning into a national catastrophe for USSR.

The continuation of the bloodshed will only testify to the nullification of glasnosts and the rebirth of a strong-arm policy among Soviet leaders.

Gorbachev Adopts 'Military Option' in Azerbaijan

LD2701215290 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] According to the reports released by the Soviet mass communication media, despite the presence of the Red Army in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, general situation in that republic continues to be tense, with the probability of the eruption of unrest in the near future being predicted. Despite imposition of curfew regulations by the military forces, the people, by gathering in the streets, are staging demonstrations, on [words indistinct] scale. [passage omitted]

Adoption of (?forcible) measures in the face of the demands of various nationalities was initiated in the Stalin era, and this practice continued to be applied until before coming to power of Mr Gorbachev. Since the assumption of power by Mr Gorbachev, and above all in the [word indistinct] of the tragedies on confrontation with the nationalities [words indistinct] of more error in the Soviet Union's internal relations.

In the opinion of political observers, watching (?the pace of) events in the Soviet Azerbaijan, adoption of military options, instead of resorting to peaceful means, is considered as a (?turning point) in Mr Gorbachev's (?former) attitude. In the meantime, it is indisputable that military encounter with the Muslims of Azerbaijan, and opposition to their demands concerning freedom of religion, will not have any positive impact on the [word indistinct] of the current Soviet leaders. The reason is that the followers of different relations in the USSR expect that a parcel of political social reforms will [word indistinct] their demands [word indistinct] on religions since the Stalin era.

English Dailies Urge Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD2701153990 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA—Iran's English dailies focusing on the Azerbaijan issue Saturday, advised Moscow to withdraw the Red Army from the Muslim-populated republic, and offered Iran's help to peacefully resolve the crisis.

TEHRAN TIMES wrote that the welfare of Muslims throughout the world is of 'prime concern,' to Islamic Iran, although it respects the principle of non-interference in other countries' affairs.

It referred to the recent message of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze reiterating 'the Islamic Republic's willingness to fully cooperate in finding a peaceful solution to the Azerbaijani crisis.'

It added: 'The message once again underscores Tehran's seriousness and interests in giving a hand to Moscow not to get itself bogged down in a persistent crisis in Azerbaijan at this sensitive time of change in the USSR.'

Anger and frustration is the popular mood in the Azerbaijan republic, the daily said, adding that strikes are reportedly going on and the Azeris have pledged to continue their resistance until the Red Army pulls out.

'It is in the light of these facts that Iran, while fully prepared to cooperate with the USSR in ending the Azerbaijan crisis, wishes to advise the leaders in Moscow to shift to more peaceful ways in Azerbaijan,' noted the daily.

It concluded by saying that Azeri Muslims should also benefit from glasnost and cautioned Moscow that 'over-reliance on political or military pressure to quell the unrest will not only endanger glasnost but will also add up to popular dissent.'

The other English daily also commented that 'Moscow would be well advised to withdraw the troops from Baku and send in an army of negotiators.'

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL stressed that the speed with which the Red Army leaves Baku will also be 'a key element in diffusing tensions there and encouraging dialogue.'

The daily quoted the Soviet paper KOMSOMLASKAYA PRAVDA as saying: 'a day before the January 20 invasion Soviet officers in Baku advised Mr. Gorbachev in a telegram that military action would result in a total break of relations and encourage the anti-Russian mood.'

It added that the author of the Soviet reformation certainly faces his stiffest challenge in the Muslim republics.

'He can find more competent and realistic counsel in the Islamic Republic for dealing judiciously with this dilemma than any Western state has to offer. The near future is perhaps opportune to renew personal relations with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.'

Clerics To Send Missionaries for Soviet Azeris

NC2701123090 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27 (AFP)—Iranian clerics plan to send Moslem missionaries to the northern border region with Soviet Azerbaijan to provide Azeris with guidance in Islam, newspapers reported here Saturday.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati was quoted as saying that the Organisation of Islamic Propaganda also proposed to send copies of the Koran, Islam's holy book, and works by Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

"Our Moslem brothers and sisters in Soviet Azerbaijan need the Koran, religious books and essays, which will be sent to them as soon as possible, after they have been translated into the Azeri language," he said.

Ayatollah Jannati said that translation work had already started.

Thousands of Soviet Azeris, who like most Iranians are Shiites, have crossed into Iran's two northern Azeri provinces over recent weeks amid ethnic clashes between Armenians and Azeris in the southern Caucasus.

Soviet Border Crossings, Baku Mourning Noted

LD2701163490 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Ardabil (East Azerbaijan), Jan. 27, IRNA—A group of Muslims from the Azerbaijan Republic who crossed into the Islamic Republic last Thursday through Bileh Savar and Garmi border points, were accomodated in make-shift camps here Friday. The visitors said that they were in Iran to make pilgrimages to the holy shrines.

The Republic of Azerbaijan shares common religious, cultural and lingual ties with Iran, and following the Soviet military action tension has escalated there.

In the capital Baku Friday, thousands of Muslims mourned the death of relatives who lost their lives in the unrest. Baku Television which was broadcasting from Shusheh Friday night, said that because of pressures broadcasts from Shusheh would discontinue. The announcer did not specify the source or type of pressures.

Meanwhile 17 Iranians who had crossed the border to Astara Chai of the Soviet Union returned to the Islamic Republic Friday. An official of the Iranian border city of Astara, said that during the past few days many Soviet Muslims had crossed into Iran through Bileh Savar and other border towns, but added that the Soviets are now

using special police dogs on the other side to prevent any further crossing to and from the town.

Soviet Muslims Continue To Gather at Border

LD2801193190 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tabriz (East Azarbayjan), Jan. 28, IRNA—A group of Muslims from the Republic of Azerabaijan held a gathering at Siah Rud area near the border regions of Jolfa this afternoon, despite efforts of Soviet border guards to disperse them. In traditional style, the Azeri Muslims beat their chests and chanted Allah-u Akbar (God is the Greatest) and other Islamic slogans.

KEYHAN HAVA'I Publishes Azeri Edition

NC2601133490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN HAVA'I, the special edition for Iranians abroad, will carry a section devoted to news, articles, and miscellaneous features in Azeri Turkish.

The edition of KEYHAN HAVA'I with a special section in Azeri Turkish is in response to repeated requests by a large number of Azeri readers in various parts of the world and in particular in the neighboring regions.

The increasing interest and mounting feelings of the people of the world and, in particular, the Muslims, toward the Islamic Republic of Iran have been the reason—simultaneous with the spread of the Islamic ideology—for expanding the range of the publication of KEYHAN HAVA'I in order to respond to the needs of the nations of the world. Therefore, in order to meet the requirements of the large number of people interested in the Islamic revolution, a section of KEYHAN HAVA'I has been devoted to the Azeri Turkish language.

In order to obtain a subscription for your relatives and friends abroad, contact the following address: Ferdowsi Avenue, Shahid Shahcheraghi Street, KEYHAN building (KEYHAN HAVA'I) or telephone the following numbers: 310251-6 and 303238 at the KEYHAN subscription department.

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

First Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2601164190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 26 Jan 90

[First Friday Prayers Sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili on 26 January at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] When I was told to come and lead the prayers today, I had in mind a number of Koranic issues; I was thinking of making some notes about them, collecting my thoughts, and coming and making certain remarks in your presence. However, my thoughts came back to one issue which is a current social issue. My thoughts could not be concentrated on any other issue, and whenever I wanted to think of another subject I noticed that my thoughts were drawn toward this. Therefore, although every one of you brothers and sisters is aware of its dimensions, its greatness, and its importance, nevertheless, in my view the issue is so important, so significant, and so great that it is fitting that we think about this issue, we speak about this issue, and that this issue be studied. When I was thinking what adequate adjective we could find for this event, I could not think of anything except calling it a miracle, a historical miracle, the miracle of the century. This event is the collapse, the downfall, and the disintegration of the foundations of the anti-God, the anti-religious, and the anti-prophet edifice throughout the world. The events which have been taking place recently in Eastern European countries, in the Soviet Union and in other places in Eastern Europe, are not ordinary events. They are not insignificant events. They are not even events which can merely be called great or important so then we could leave them alone. The fact that the communist camps have completely collapsed, fallen apart, and been destroyed in the world, in one place after another, in the space of a few weeks—and this process is still continuing—is a very important matter which has taken place in our age. No matter how much I tried to find a similar example to this, even in ancient history, even at the time of the prophets, for instance the conquest of Mecca at the time of the Prophet, the drowning of the pharaohs and the arrogant people of that time, and the emancipation of His Holiness Moses and those around him, up to the present time, no matter how much I tried to find an event similar to the events which have taken place during the past 2 or 3 days [as heard], or which of those events can be compared to these events in view of their greatness or dimensions, I could not find one.

Especially when one looks at history since 1917, when Lenin formed his first government and affairs proceeded year by year until the years 20, 22, 23, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and further, the history of World War II, and when one looks at the way the communist party gained power, how they came into being, how the third-party system was changed into a one-party system, how they established dictatorship, killed many people, purged many cadres, executed groups of 20, 50, and 60 without any trial, how their rivals committed suicide due to them, how they were exiled, executed, fled, how they achieved total power, and what efforts they made throughout the world, and eventually came to the point that they organised everything on the basis of Marxism-Leninism—even logic, even philosophy, even medicine, even technical sciences and human sciences and social issues—until for them the only basis became Marxism-Leninis. . [sentence as heard] Later, they developed an ambition to conquer the world. How many regions they grabbed, how many systems they set up, what things they did in the world! They divided the world into the two Eastern and Western blocs. They established military pacts like the Warsaw Pact, and so on. They swallowed

up many countries, they constructed many walls, they divided countries. They did all this.

Of course, there was some opposition to them. In the course of these 73 years, or 75 years, they were constantly faced with points of resistance. They were confronted by European powers, by the United States with all its might, by Muslim countries through the use of pens, through their thoughts, their actions, by forming parties and by organizing movements and groups. Of course, they sustained some blows. Nevertheless, they remained firm, strong, like an iron fence, until the situation came to the point that Brezinski recently commented on them, saying that the socialist camp and the Soviet system is so strong, so organized, and so steadfast that one cannot see any point of weakness in it and that decades from now it will continue its stability, its existence, and its progress.

We witnessed all these things. All these struggles and uprisings dealt minor blows at them, but they could never confront them.

To stand against them, even the United States extended a begging hand to all the world's nations. It set up associations; including an association which it set up at Behamdun [near Beirut] to which it invited Muslims, Jews, and adherents to world faiths, including those who are right and those who are wrong, those who are valid and those who are invalid. It said all of them must come. It placed vast resources at their disposal so that they could campaign against world communism and obstruct the advance of the communists. Yet they stood firm; of course they sustained some blows but they could retaliate and harrass the other side.

There was a superpower... [changes thought] One used to think that it was impossible. The more one thought, the more a learned man, a politician, and a sociologist thought of how to fight and destroy the communist regime, the more it seemed there was only one way to do so—by a world nuclear war in which East and West would mutually destroy each other. Otherwise, no other way could come to mind.

The peoples of the world went to sleep one night; next morning they woke only to witness the disintegration of that fort, that palace—on its own. So far many have no correct and fully reliable analysis on what happened. What one sees is the relics. A communist state suggests that the designation of socialist be removed from its name. It suggests that the such-and-such socialist republic be renamed the republic of such and such. Another state says that communism is prohibited. Another says those who worked in the communist party must be prosecuted; and another says that Marxism-Leninism be removed from the educational program—there should be no name for this movement, this logic, this regime in the universities and schools.

What military, political, scientific and philosophical power destroyed that greatness in the world, turning it into a bubble? What happened? What happened to so much philosophy? They were active until yesterday. [passage omitted]

Now the events are taking the course which our great Imam prophesied in his divine forecast—at the time the world did not view such prophecy very seriously—when he said that communism was bogged down and must be forgotten in the world. Today we see it has met that same fate. Yet, at the time we failed to grasp fully the implication of the Imam's words. [passage omitted]

What has happened in our lifetime is more important than any military operation, any political work, World War II, and World War I. I failed to find an event to compare in importance with it, no matter how hard I tried. That is, the anti-God camp—the one which was consolidated, organized and full of military and political resources and had half the world under its yoke—has been destroyed. Now nobody in the world has the nerve to mention that he is a communist and is proud of it.

The world carried out its actions. Those camps carried out their actions. Those pens, those borders, those ideologies, those resources—they all served their designated purposes. God gave them 70-75 years, until they reached a point whence they could not go any further, short of harboring designs on conquering the entire world. God said: Well, I gave you 70-75 years to do what you wanted to do, militarily, ideologically, economically, in all their dimensions. Was not everything based on a Marxist-Leninist foundation? Was not Aristotle's logic adapted into dialectic logic? Were not the Islamic philosophy, the Greek philosophy, and the ancient philosopy adapted into materialistic-dialectic logic? Is it not that all teachings are now based on a Marxist-Leninist foundation?

Well, you have had your chance. Now it is our turn. It only needed 3-4 weeks for communism, which was their pride, to gradually turn into the source of their shame. Group after group of the population swarmed into the streets, demanding their trials, their ostracism, their removal. They wanted to be given that opportunity. God granted this golden opportunity gratis, and easily, to those who believe in God, specifically the Muslims, and especially the sacred system of the Islamic Republic.

You, and that profane camp which constituted your ideological base, and that major obstacle in the path of religious propoganda—divine and prophetic calls—which had barred everyone, was removed in a breeze. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "Death to America, death to Israel, death to England"]

Yes! God, that very God who destroyed Nimrud; that very God who destroyed Croesus; that very God who destroyed the Pharaoh; that very God who demolished that magnificant layout in a puff; that very God who ruined civilizations with a storm, an earthquake, a hurricane; that very God—in this era—in an era of science, industry, technology. They used to ascribe such phenomena to the past, claiming that now man has a path to everything. Which path did we cross which led to

the destruction of the communist camp? Which path was it? Which military initiative was it? Which policy was it? Which force was it? Which capability was it? What happened? A country requests to have the label of socialism removed from its title. They changed names: street names, people's names, names of organizations, the educational programs. Altogether everything from which the weak scent of Maxism-Leninism emanates, has been condemned to elimination. This is a fact.

God be my witness that, no matter how hard I thought, I failed to find something to compare this with. What else can one call this, but the miracle of the century? God bestowed the favor of religious freedom, and removed that great obstacle on the path of the pious, the God-seeking and the God-chanting souls. Now, we are left with our obligation. A vacuum has been created. Brothers! Sisters! Honorable officials! And dear people! You who offered martyrs and blood to the path of Islam. [passage omitted]

Marxism-Leninism has gone. What should it be replaced with? Islamic logic. Islamic philosophy. Islamic policy. Islamic education. Islamic economics. Everything Islamic. Hitherto they had tried to construct everything in accordance with a Marxist-Leninist foundation. Now that the stone has been removed, it has to be replaced with something else. Now, the world's Muslims should endeavor to—why am I saying "the Muslims"—when I should say all religions? But what should I include in all religions: Israel? Do you think that Israel feels sorry that God is not recognized in the world? Christian countries? Those Christian countries which are of a similar nature with regard to piety, with the differences that they were called anti-God, while they have not labelled themselves as such. That is why I say "the Muslims". By Muslims, I refer mainly to those who revolted for the sake of God, who gave blood, martyrs, and toiled, doing everything with sincerity, who surrendered to God. Those Ibrahims of the time; those Ismaels, those who work, live, die, become martyrs and act for the love of God. I am addressing them.

We should—God willing—consider reaping the utmost benefit from this event, this global development, this international development. Yesterday, we shook like a leaf, fearing that they may come and abduct our children, converting them to communism. However, in the wake of the Islamic revolution, our mind—praise be to God—was put at rest. We cut off their hands. We at least made certain that a leftist could not work in Iran. They have now been dismantled in the world. They have been demolished in the world. That is not solely confined to Iran, to Iranian cities, but specifically to that sector: the Muslim-inhabited sector of the USSR.

In the first place one must fully praise that Muslim-inhabited region whose people, during the course of 75 years, could not even call themselves Islamic, and yet they managed to preserve their Islam, and their interest in it and in the Koran. We were definitely informed—as we received several phone calls a day—that those who crossed the border came for the Koran. Otherwise, why did they jump into the water and drown, otherwise what else were they looking for? They came for the Koran, the book of prayers, religious treatises, portraits of His Holiness the Imam and the esteemed leadership, His Holiness the Imam's works, and sermons and messages of the esteemed leadership and other figures. They came for what the Islamic revolution holds. These must be provided, but not only the Koran—although that must be provided. The translations of the Koran much reach various forums as soon as possible. The Koran must be translated into a language that they will be able to read and comprehend easily. Religious treatises must be compiled in their language. Then philosopical books, and books about religious tenets, ethics, social codes, and the Iranian revolution must follow. There is now a great market for the introduction of Islam. These people, during the course of 70 or 80 years, have safeguarded their Islamic and Shiite identity. Not only have they safeguarded it, but they have become like a starving human whose zeal for food increases by the hour.

Muslims have an obligation. I would like to say that the issue is urgent. If we show complacency, the West will fill the vacuum: Western democracy, U.S. morals, or even U.S. economics, and if those people who seek Islam are not given it by healthy hands, then they will be given American-style Islam. That is to say, they will be fed with distorted Islam, a wrong Islam. Therefore, one must be grateful for the move of our esteemed officials, that after the message from the great leadership, they came and conducted a very good move by at least responding to their shouts. However, this is not enough. God willing, very fundamental and important moves must follow that expression of sympathy. That is to say, they are thirsty for Islam, therefore, it is a religious duty for us to respond to their requests through proper channels, before even we think of our own food, clothing, livelihood, and medicine. Otherwise we will have to account to God.

Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2601165190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili on 26 January at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Everything we have today is a result of the blessings of the Day of God on 11 February. Presently we are a world nation which enjoys its own dignity and freedom. If now we have an honorable leader in the world who is one of us and guides us to the path of the imam, this is as a result of that day's blessings. If today we have a president who is shouldering the heavy burdens of the country's management, it is as a result of that day's blessings. Today, if we have revolutionary foundations which perform most duties, it is as a result of that day's blessings. If we enjoy freedom,

if we enjoy dignity, if we decide our own fate, if we are no longer subjugated in the world, it is as a result of that day's blessings.

I say that if the antihuman camps collapse in the world and communism is being wiped out, then what do you think the influence of the glorious, great Islamic revolution of Iran has been on that movement? Is it without any influence?

If Iran had not created the revolution, if the system of the Islamic Republic had not been put into practice in Iran, if that divine and heavenly call had not been made from Iran, would this global movement still take place in the communist world in the same manner as it did?

Islam is being put into practice in Iran. It was once said that if there were no monarchy in Iran, then Iran would become Iranistan. The monarch left Iran and Iran did not become Iranistan.

Unfortunately, we do not see his eminence the imam among us during the "10 Days of Dawn" this year, and his shadow no longer extends above our heads. But after the imam, for the blessing of the imam's soul and his decree and his spirit, such a beautiful action took place here that amazed the world. Within a day, through a united word, the first foundation of the system, which was the election of the honorable leader, was set into motion by the experts.

After that, one by one, the organs, foundations, the presidential elections, the administration of the country, and the Majles elections have continued to this day. With God's favor, they will continue just the same and remain just the same. Therefore, our duty during the "10 Days of Dawn" is not to forget the memory of that auspicious day, the day with so much blessings.

We have ceremonies we have performed in those 10 or 11 years. Each year we move and march and demonstrate in streets in memory of that first day, in memory of those days, in memory of the imam's arrival, and in memory of the dawn of the victory. And we remember that day and that glory and that greatness and also remind our children and transfer it to them and also tell the world that today we are the same nation that we were yesterday. Today we have the same likings, kindness, and love that we had yesterday. Islam is not an identity which is affected by today or yesterday. That is so that we say we supported Islam yesterday and today we no longer support it.

Yesterday we liked Islam. That cannot be said. Therefore I hope, God willing, all of us, man or woman, young or old, will perform our religious and revolutionary duty, God willing.

My remarks, for the second sermon have ended. Instead of the Arabic sermon, as I mentioned before, with the permission of the brothers and sisters, I will express condolences and appreciations to Azeri brothers and sisters and the dear Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

[Rest of sermon spoken in Azeri] Brothers and sisters, wherever you may be, you are hearing this speech of mine or this message of mine from this sacred place, from the center of the regime of the Islamic Republic in Tehran, at the Friday prayers. On my own behalf and on behalf of all our honorable and proud nation, on behalf of all organs as well as on behalf of the great and dear leader and on behalf of the dear president, government, and the Majles, I beg to tell you that your success in preserving your religion and faith in the face of 70-80 years of anti-God propaganda, your success in preserving your religious feelings until today when, with God's blessing, you have found the opportunity to protect and defend your religion, openly merits my thanks on behalf of all. I pray to God for your success and His blessing.

Brothers and sisters, you have sustained disasters in these developments. Events came your way, they were violent, and you gave martyrs. Regard the Iranian nation as your partner in these calamities. On behalf of the Iranian nation I offer you, for your martyrs, both condolences and, as they are martyrs, congratulations.

Brothers and sisters, my third message to you is this: In the hearts of all Iranian men and women the feeling exists that they are on your side in the developments—which are Islamic developments—which may come your way. And please, too, accept their participation. God has promised, God willing, that whoever takes a step on the path of God, then God will shower His help on that person.

Khamene'i Appoints Friday Prayers Bodies

LD2701113690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In a decree issued today, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and the supreme jurisconsult, appointed the members of the Friday Imams Central Secretariat and Executive Committees. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Considering the importance of Friday prayers, their enormous effect in gaining God's blessings, guiding the Muslim nation, maintaining their resistance, unity, religious, and political awareness, and for the sake of better performing this great duty throughout the country, Hojaj-e Eslam [plural of Hojjat ol-Eslam] Khatam, Rasuli, Iravani, Sane'i, Taqavi, Qazi-Asgar, and Madani are appointed members of the Central Secretariat; and Messrs Khatam, Qazi-Asgar, Keshmiri, Madavi, and Hojjatizadeh are appointed members of the Executive Committee of the Friday Imams, for 3 years.

The scope of duties of the two groups have been determined in accordance with the regulations. Their main

task is to make the Friday prayers, this great duty, more fruitful and beneficial for the public, by determining and allocating the duties of all the members and with the help of the honorable Friday imams, and to take turns submitting progress reports to me. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 27 January 1990

IRGC Commander Describes Foiled Hijacking

LD2601173490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Afshar, commander of the Mobilization [Basij] resistance forces and the spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in an interview with our correspondent, Barahman, provided more details about how the conspiracy to hijack an aircraft on the Shiraz-Bandar-e 'Abbas route failed.

[Begin recording] [Barahman] Mr Afshar, we learned that at 2000 [2330 GMT] last night, the vigilant Islamic Revolution Guards Corps fortunately foiled an attempt by the conspiracy of world arrogance, on the eve of the "10 Days of Dawn," to hijack an aircraft on the Shiraz-Bandar-e 'Abbas route. Please tell us about the details of the incident.

[Afshar] Some time ago, in order to make life easier for passengers on Islamic Republic flights, certain facilities were created. The hijackers misused these facilities and succeeded in smuggling some equipment [tajhizat] onto the aircraft. There were four attackers equipped with grenades and pistols. They first took a stewardess hostage and threatened to carry out their plans if the aircraft did not change course to either Iraq or Israel.

However, thanks be to God, the vigilant flight security brothers from the special Islamic Revolution Guards Corps force succeeded in killing the attackers.

Thanks be to God, none of the passengers, the flight security brothers, or the crew was harmed, and the aircraft landed safely. The brother flight security guards were applauded by the passengers. We are also very grateful that on the eve of the "10 Days of Dawn" we succeeded in demonstrating the strength of our brothers in maintaining the security of the country. [end recording]

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses IRGC Clerics

LD2801111690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Officials from the vice-regency of the jurisconsult offices of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] met Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, at the immaculate shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted into paradise. In that meeting, Mr Araqi submitted a report on the activities of the Vali-e Faqih offices.

Then, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni praised the clerics in the IRGC for their services. He said: You relinquished the comfort of the seminaries, and instead bore great hardship in order to serve Islam, the people, and our brothers in the Guards, both in the throes of war and today. We should all bear in mind that today, working in the military and security forces is considered an extremely positive and fruitful task. By depicting the personalities of the immaculate imams—may God's blessing be upon them—you should disseminate the spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice. You must try to succeed in further attracting the Armed Forces toward Islam, in a good, brotherly, and rational manner. Today, it is clear to everyone that, were it not for the worthy services of the IRGC and the Armed Forces, or the self-sacrifices of the IRGC on domestic and foreign fronts, or the fact that the fronts were not filled with the basij [mobilization] forces, Iran may well have turned into Iranistan. The Guards Corps sacrificed their lives to defend the boundaries of religion, honor, and country. It stood firm in the face of the entire forces of arrogance. The services rendered by the Guards Corps were so great, that the imam graciously said, I wish I were a Revolution Guard.

You clerics played a significant role in that war; over 2,500 of your clergy brothers were martyred in the war. A great many of the politico-ideological representatives became martyrs of the revolution, one of whom was Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Haj Sheykh Fazlollah Mahallati, who was described by the imam as the great commander of Islam. He was one of the illustrious personalities of the resistance and the revolution, who stood by the imam until he was honored with martyrdom. A number of the clerics were taken captive, and some were injured or missing. May God reward them all. They took a pledge with their God, to defend their supreme jurisconsult, that is the dear imam,—may his soul be admitted into paradise—religion, and country, until their last drop of blood was spilled in this high and low path of the revolution. They kept their pledge, until they drank the syrup of martyrdom.

Today, you and I should follow the same line. We should sincerely and virtuously support our great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his soul be blessed—for the sake of God, Islam, and our Islamic system, and follow the same path as he, which is the same as that of our dear imam. Today, the world is awaiting our next move. Turning our backs on the jurisconsult will lead to the collapse of the system. Today, the supreme jurisconsult is the point of unity of the Hezbollah ummah. The system is not detached from the jurisconsult, since without the jurisconsult there would be no Islamic system, and without the system, the revolution would fail to take its course in the world. Today, our Islamic system is the light and hope of the world's Muslims. If the two trends of our revolution, the two trends which are devoted to the Islam, the imam, the vice regency of the jurisconsult, and the system, join forces, they would surmount every counterrevolutionary

movement, inside and outside the country. Otherwise, whatever group assumes power would be thirsty for the blood of both revolutionary trends, and would crush both trends.

If we fail to support our dear friend and brother, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and abstain from assisting him in his task, some of the imam's followers would raise their voices from every corner. What kind of people would assume power then?

Today, at this scared shrine, we take a pledge with the imam, to shun whoever has been shunned by the imam, and to fraternize with whoever the imam considered a brother.

In my opinion, our great problem today is that of the war. Over 2,000 square km of our territory is in the hands of the Ba'thist 'Aflaqi. We should always maintain the preparedness of the military and popular forces; otherwise, it will not be long before the Iraqis wage war against us. We should remain totally prepared, and you can play a fundamental role to that end. You should endeavor to bolster the spirit of piety and godliness within the faithful military and Guards Corps forces. May God grant you success.

President Visits Kish Island, Meets Officials

NC2701085790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Continuing his tour of our southern provinces, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has visited Kish Island. He attended a meeting with a number of ministers, senior advisers, and other officials last night and was briefed on development projects in Kish Island.

In remarks after the meeting, the president praised the efforts of the Kish Development Organization officials. He pointed out that the people are confident as far as the future of Kish Island is concerned and said that the officials should report to the people on their activities

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We can do many things in many parts of the country. For example, with a favorable use of land and water around Bandar-e 'Abbas, a major center for agriculture can be created.

The president pointed to the fact that 90 percent of the Foruzan oil platform's gas is wasted. He said: I was sad to see that this quantity of gas is being burned, that this wealth is being wasted, and that Kish Island's resources are not being used as they should be.

Praising the officials concerned with Kish Island's development projects, the president issued the necessary directives to the officials on accelerating the implementation of these projects.

IRNA reports that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to speak about the use of the great freshwater reserves and issued the necessary instructions to officials on harnessing the 6 billion cubic meters of Bushehr province's (?water resources).

This report, citing a review by the managing director of Kish Island Development Organization, states that Kish Island is 91 square km in area and is 17 km away from mainland Iran at its closest point. The resources that exist in Kish today and are considered to be national wealth are valued at $500 million plus 1 billion rials.

Daily Urges Halt to Jewish Influx to 'Palestine'

LD2801101990 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday urged Moscow and Muslim countries to take serious action in stopping the influx of Jewish immigrants to the occupied Palestine.

The occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were on total strike last Thursday in protest to the extensive immigration of the Russian Jews to Israel.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' referred to the Kremlin policy of easing up towards Jewish citizens who wish to live elsewhere in the world and said "as far as the nature of the move...is concerned it is acceptable and welcome."

The paper however did not hesitate to criticize the Kremlin policy makers for not taking into consideration that granting such social freedom infringes upon the freedom of others.

"Should now the freedom of immigration for one group obstruct justice to others and curb their right to ownership over their motherland?" it asked.

The daily's editorial also recalled "the Zionist leaders are explicitly using the East European Jews to perpetuate their occupation of Palestinian lands."

It warned "by turning a blind eye to such international and moral responsibility the Soviet leadership is only dimming the prospect for the liberation of Palestine."

The paper also called on Muslim countries to "employ every means available to them to prevent such immigrations that will only harm their oppressed Palestinian brethren."

"Moscow's passivity and Zionist plots are giving the Palestinian problem a turn for the worse and more complication," the editorial concluded adding "This must be prevented."

Paper Disparages Cooperation With France

LD2901114190 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Iranian policy makers should take into account in their dealings with France

that Paris will never seriously help Iranian economic development but rather boost strategic cooperation with Iraq, noted the 'TEHRAN TIMES' editorial Monday. Recalling that French-Iraqi ties and strategic collaboration took a boost following the Iraqi invasion of the Islamic Republic in 1980. The paper referred to the current visit by the French defense minister to Baghdad for talks on the Iraqi failure to service its debts to France.

On the other hand, it referred to Tehran-Paris cold ties over the past few years, efforts by both capitals to bring about a thaw in bilateral relations since last year and French evasion in repaying the remaining portion of the loan they received from Iran in the late 70s.

It said "some foreign policy officials in Iran have a tendency to think that as an industrial country France can become a strong economic partner for Iran in the latter's attempt to reconstruct its eco-industrial base," but it added "Such a view will [words indistinct] of the context of the regional developments."

Stressing that French-Iraqi strategic cooperation can be clearly observed in their collaboration in Lebanon, the paper added "it has to be admitted that France will never seriously try to help Iranian economy develop."

The paper concluded "Iranian policy makers should take these points into account in their dealings with France unless a convincing sign surfaces pointing to the contrary."

Pakistan

Diplomats Say Kashmir Not Indian Internal Affair

BK2801162390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources said in Islamabad today that the situation in the Indian-held Kashmir is not an internal matter of India as Kashmir is a disputed territory, the future of which is yet to be decided in accordance with UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. They were commenting on an All India Radio report which quoted the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, as saying during a meeting with the visiting Indian foreign secretary in Moscow that the Soviet Union condemns foreign interference in any form in the internal affairs of India.

The diplomatic sources categorically rejected Indian allegation that Pakistan was in any way involved in the present turmoil in India-held Kashmir which was entirely of an indigenous and intrinsic nature.

Opposition Meeting Described as 'Referendum'

BK2601162290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] A big public meeting of the Combined Opposition Parties is being held in Karachi. Almost all prominent opposition leaders are attending the meeting. Most of the leaders described the meeting as a referendum against the government. They said the large gathering of people, representing different walks of life and various parts of the country, reflects national solidarity. They accused the government of not having solved a single problem in the past year.

Addressing the meeting, Zahid Sarfaraz, a member of the National Assembly, said there is a need to create great unity among Pakistani Muslims by eliminating all types of differences and hatred. Another National Assembly member, Sayeeda Abida Hussain, said real democracy could dawn in Pakistan only when all provinces unite against exploitation. She said it is imperative to create a system based on justice and equality to achieve this desired objective. She warned the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] against using what she described as the Sind card to remain in power.

Senator Maulana Salim Haq said that Pakistan was created in the name of Islam and it would survive only on the basis of Islam. Mr Munnawar Hassan of Jamiat-i-Islam accused the PPP of not fulfilling the promises given to the people during the elections. A member of the National Assembly, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, criticized the PPP leadership for encouraging corruption and damaging national interests. The secretary general of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, Professor Ghafoor Ahmad, said that the Combined Opposition Parties stand for Pakistan's integrity and stability and it will try to end provincial, regional, and ethnic differences. He said today's meeting, which is being attended by people representing all walks of life, expresses the people's confidence in the Combined Opposition Parties.

The meeting adopted resolutions concerning important national issues. One resolution demands immediate measures for the repatriation of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh. Another resolution demands the release of what they described as all political prisoners. Yet another resolution calls upon the government to provide agricultural implements at reasonable prices.

The meeting is still continuing.

'Inaction' on Kashmir Criticized

BK2701002290 Hong Kong AFP in English 2016 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Karachi, Jan 26 (AFP)—Pakistan's top opposition leader called for international support for freedom fighters in Kashmir and Afghanistan at a massive public rally here Friday [26 January].

At the rally, attended by tens of thousands of people, the government of prime minister Benazir Bhutto came under strong criticism for its "inaction" on the territory of Kashmir, claimed by India and Pakistan.

"The people of Pakistan will not tolerate a government which has not taken a clear stand on the Kashmir issue," Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif said.

Punjab Province borders India.

The public meeting was one of the biggest in Karachi's history, with the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) estimating the crowd at half a million.

Mr. Sharif, who is also president of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), was proposed as a future prime minister at the rally. He was given a standing ovation when he addressed the surging crowd.

The IJI chief also accused the Bhutto government of "inefficiency and corruption." Speakers claimed her family was involved in "massive kick-backs" in deals with foreign companies.

Ms. Bhutto "in disregard of the national honour had tried to mortgage Pakistan's integrity by accepting the Indian hegemony," Mr. Sharif said.

In a hard-hitting speech, the main opposition leader said "the misfortune of the country is that the sister of a terrorist is today prime minister."

Her self-exiled brother Murtaza Bhutto, 34, who formed an anti-martial law group Al-Zulfiqar to avenge the death of his father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto by hanging in 1979, was tried in absentia by a military court for his alleged involvement in a Pakistani plane hijacking drama in 1981.

The military court had sentenced him to 14 years imprisonment in his absence.

The late Mr. Bhutto was killed after former President Mohammad Ziaul Haq overthrew him in a military coup in 1977.

His daughter, Ms. Bhutto, was in a hospital not far from the scene of the rally Friday after giving birth to a baby girl on Thursday.

Accusing her of "blackmailing" the people on the law and order problem in Sind, Mr. Sharif said "as long we are here the Sindhu Desh (separate homeland for Sindhis) will not be allowed."

The rally adopted a resolution demanding that the people of Kashmir and Afghanistan who are fighting "foreign domination" be allowed to decide their own future.

Insisting that more than 100 million Pakistanis support Kashmiris fighting Indian occupation, it called for the right of self-determination in Kashmir as recommended by the United Nations after the Indo-Pakistan war in 1948.

COP chief Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in his speech said the abortive no confidence move against Ms. Bhutto's government in November was an attempt to remove her in a democratic way. But her "government has now compelled us to mobilise public opinion" in the opposition's favour, he added.

Another influential Pathan leader Abdul Wali Khan of the pro-Moscow Awami National Party said "we are struggling for the restoration of real democracy" in the country. "We have now brought the case before the people's court," he added.

In another resolution, the rally also called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to ask the government to seek a fresh vote of confidence before March 20.

Corruption Charges Leveled

BK2701034090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Karachi last night, the leaders of the Combined Opposition have expressed their determination to continue their struggle for the restoration of true democracy and the rule of law.

The leader of the Combined Opposition, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, leveled corruption charges against the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and said that the party is not capable of fulfilling the pledges made to the people during the elections.

The president of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Mian Nawaz Sharif, alleged that the PPP government has sacrificed national interests to safeguard its position.

The Muhajir Qaumi Movement chief, Altaf Hussain, said the settlers from India are not against anyone and want to live in peace with Punjabis, Pakhtuns, Sindhis, and Baluchs.

The Awami National Party chief, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has alleged that the authorities have no interest in solving the problems of the people.

The leader of the Pakistan Jamhoori Party, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said: We had supported the struggle of the PPP for the restoration of democracy, but after coming to power the tendency of the party has forced us to join the opposition.

Several other leaders of the Combined Opposition also addressed the meeting and adopted various resolutions. Through these resolutions, the meeting appealed to the president to end the alleged confrontation between the federal government and Punjab and Baluchistan Provinces, to convene the common benefit council meeting, and to realize the provincial autonomy according to the Constitution.

In another resolution, the meeting demanded a solution to the Kashmir issue, per the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir and the UN resolutions.

The meeting also urged finding a political solution to the Afghanistan issue in order to enable the Afghan refugees to return home with dignity and honor.

Demonstrators Protest Indian Kashmir Situation

BK2601155290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] A protest day was observed in the entire Azad Jammu and Kashmir and by Kashmiris living in Pakistan and foreign countries to express anger and indignation over the Indian Army's killing of innocent Kashmiris in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Various political and religious organizations staged demonstrations in Muzefferabad. Several women also participated in the demonstrations.

Addressing a protest meeting, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan stressed that the people must maintain unity in their ranks in order that their struggle may succeed. He said Kashmiris want to settle this issue through peaceful means in accordance with UN resolutions. He appealed to free countries, especially the Muslim world, to help Kashmiris in their freedom struggle.

Similar protest meetings were held in other cities and towns. Demonstrations were staged at which speakers demanded an early settlement of the Kashmir issue. Memorandums were presented to the UN observers group's offices in Kotri and Rawalakot, demanding that free and fair plebiscites be held in Jammu and Kashmir.

Various political organizations also held protest demonstrations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The largest demonstration was held by Azad Kashmir People's Party, which passed through various streets of the city and dispersed peacefully in front of the UN observers group's office. Participants in the demonstration, including women and children, carried banners condemning Indian atrocities against Kashmiris and demanding that the world community, including the superpowers, liberate Kashmir.

Azad Kashmir People's Party President Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan presented a memorandum to the chief of the UN observers group. Speaking to newsmen on the occasion, he asked the Pakistan Government to urge the United Nations to debate the grave situation in the occupied territory.

A protest demonstration was staged by the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and was addressed by, among others, PPP Secretary Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad and Information Secretary Qayyum. Expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people's struggle, they said self-determination is the Kashmiri birthright. They paid lavish tribute to the Kashmiris regarding their sacrifices and condemned Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

A protest demonstration was also held in Quetta to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Speakers said the Kashmiri people's struggle cannot be crushed by force. They demanded that a plebiscite be held in accordance with the UN resolution so that the Kashmiris may decide their own future.

The people prayed for the success of the Kashmiri people's freedom struggle during today's Friday prayers and offered prayers for the martyrs of Azad Kashmir.

National Assembly Speaker Meraj Khalid has said that the Kashmiri people's struggle in occupied Kashmir is part of the freedom struggle sweeping the world. Talking to newsmen in Multan today, he said he regretted that India, instead of accepting this reality, is trying to accuse Pakistan. Meraj Khalid, who has just visited Tehran, said Iran's support for the Kashmiri people, seen in their cancellation of the forthcoming visit by the Indian external affairs minister, is commendable.

Nusrat Bhutto on Kashmir, Possible Mid-Term Poll

BK2701155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Senior Federal Minister Nusrat Bhutto has said that the current situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting expected to be held within a week. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today ,she said that the Kashmiri people should be given an opportunity to experience the right of self-determination. The cabinet meeting will examine raising this issue at the United Nations. Nusrat Bhutto said that the current situation in occupied Kashmir is nothing unique; it is part of the ongoing movement throughout the world against oppression and external domination and for change and independence.

Replying to a question, Nusrat Bhutto said that the government of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] is not frightened by a mid-term election. If the opposition wants this, the PPP will have no objection because it enjoys the support of the majority of the people.

Answering a question on whether the prime minister will have to seek a fresh vote of confidence from the National Assembly after 20 March this year, Nusrat Bhutto said that they will act according to the relevant clause of the Constitution in this regard.

Azad Jammu, Kashmir Premier on UN Resolutions

BK2701030090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan Jan 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, has stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir issue according to UN resolutions. Speaking to foreign journalists in Muzaffarabad yesterday, he said independent nations had voted in favor of UN resolutions and therefore they should also play their role in their implementation. He said India also accepted these resolutions. He expressed hope that the facts will be accepted and that the Kashmiris will be granted their right of self-determination.